

Hafa Adai!

Student leadership summit promotes mental health, wellness. **PAGE 2**  
SCC launches career exploration internship program. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 122

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21, 2023

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## Medicaid suspends some services

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's Medicaid agency has officially sent out notice to its vendors that certain services must be put on hold until further notice due to lack of funding.

Acting Medicaid director Rosita Benito said yesterday that, because the Department of Finance has informed them that there really is no money for the matching funds needed to tap into the federal funds

allocated for the Medicaid program, Medicaid has had to send out notices to its vendors that certain services must be put on hold until further notice. Benito said the notice took  
**See MEDICAID on Page 4**

## DPL: Alter City Group violated lease agreement

» **Investor for proposed \$360M casino resort project on Tinian given 60 days to complete construction of Phase 1, other corrective actions**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
Reporter

The Department of Public Lands has determined that the Macau-based Alter City Group Inc., which acquired a lease of a 152-hectare public land for its proposed \$360-million ca-

sino resort project on Puntan Diablo on Tinian, failed to submit evidence of its financing source for the project, as well as comply with other terms and conditions of its lease agreement.



Santos

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos issued last June 9 a notice of default and notice of violation to Johnny Leong, who is the corporate representative of Alter City Group, for failing to comply with the terms and conditions of lease agreement which was executed on Sept.

**See DPL on Page 4**

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:  
**101**

## First responders undergo drone training



LEIGH GASES

First responders in the CNMI participate in the drone training course, led by Bella Wings Aviation co-founder Charlie Hermosa, standing in front, fourth from left. The first day of training was done yesterday at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute campus in Lower Base, until June 26, from 8am to 4pm.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
Reporter

About 20 first responders from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safe-

ty, Department of Corrections, CNMI Customs/Biosecurity, Airport Rescue and Firefighting, and CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management participated in the first drone training course on Saipan.

The first day of training was done yesterday at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute campus in Lower Base. It will be held until June 26, from 8am to 4pm.

**See TRAINING on Page 4**

## House OKs bill to address gov't's financial deficit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a bill that members believe will address the CNMI government's financial deficit.

All 17 House members

present at a special House session voted "yes" to pass House Bill 23-56 that seeks to use the remaining 60% of the total of indirect cost revenue or reimbursement by fiscal year collected for



Attao

each grant.

The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), and Julie Marie Atalig Ogo (Ind-Rota) were absent

but excused from the session.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) formally introduced the bill yesterday. Several other House members co-sponsored the legislation.

Before voting on a motion to pass the bill, Attao thanked

**See HOUSE on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

The United Filipino Organization hosts Pistang Pinoy 2023 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

**PAGE 7**



#### BUSINESS

Train Smart wants local companies to take a chance on students with disabilities.

**PAGE 11**



#### WORLD

French President Emmanuel Macron called on European nations to bolster airspace defense.

**PAGE 13**



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# Local

## Student leadership summit promotes mental health, wellness

Over 45 students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota gathered at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last May 4 and 5 to participate in the CNMI Public School System's Sources of Strength Student Leadership Summit to embark on a transformative journey of empowerment and personal growth.

The two-day event aimed to unite peer leaders from various schools, fostering connections and facilitating a supportive network. It focused on empowering students to establish support networks, combat mental health challenges, and promote overall wellness within their schools.

The Sources of Strength program is an evidence-based suicide prevention initiative that focuses on building a supportive network and promoting positive mental health. It emphasizes the power of connections, healthy coping strategies, and multiple sources of support to enhance well-being and prevent suicide among individuals, particularly students.

The summit started with an engaging Meet & Greet session on the first day, allowing students to interact, mix, and mingle with their fellow Sources of Strength peers.

Dr. Boni Pangelinan, senior director of the Office of Student and Support Services, delivered a warm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sources of Strength peer leaders and advisers pose for a photo with the PSS mental health team.

welcome and engaged the participants with her presentation titled "Unpacking Her Bag of Rocks." Through sharing her own Adverse Childhood Experiences, she shed light on the heavy burdens we all sometimes carry and guided students in recognizing their own sources of strength to overcome their ACEs.

Special guest speaker Antonette "Nettycee" Castro, educator, musical artist and famous local video creator, graced the summit with her presence. Castro welcomed the students with her signature slogan from her viral videos and passion-

ately discussed the importance of finding sources of strength. Drawing from her own experiences, she highlighted the absence of such programs during her own upbringing, stressing the significance of prioritizing mental health and embracing these vital initiatives. She expressed hope of inspiring the students to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams.

The second full day of the student leadership summit included engaging team-building activities fostering collaboration and honing problem-solving skills. The students also actively participated in

developing their annual campaigns for Sources of Strength, working closely with their clubs to create outreach efforts, plans, and ideas that align with the program's goals and vision. The students' commitment is reflected in their passionate participation as they work alongside their respective clubs to develop comprehensive outreach efforts, strategic plans, and innovative ideas. Their initiatives are aligned with the SOS's goals and vision, focusing on building sources of strength and resilience within their school communities.

Recognizing the urgent need to combat the prevailing state of mind among students, including feelings of depression, fear, and isolation, these young leaders are determined to make a difference.

Tinian Junior Senior High School student and Stallions Sources of Strength club officer Joseph Santos Jr., said, "I believe that the overall youth culture needs to change for there to be more transparency with youth expressing their mental health needs and emotions."

By implementing the Sources of Strength program, they seek to create an environment that promotes positive mental health, supports one another, and empowers students to

overcome life's challenges. He added "SOS is a great leap toward that direction and this future can further be idealized through campaigns and retreats such as this weekend." Through their annual campaigns, the students will be able to promote awareness, encourage open conversations, and establish a network of support within their schools.

As the Sources of Strength Student Leadership Summit unfolded, it served as a catalyst for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota students to champion mental well-being within themselves and their communities, leaving a lasting impact on those around them. State Entity agency director, Dr. Bobby Cruz said, "The voice of our students can never be understated. The wisdom they bring forth is rooted in truth if we dare to listen. What a joy it was to share space with our youth SOS heroes."

For more information on the Sources of Strength program, visit <http://sourcesofstrength.org> and follow them on their social media platforms. To stay updated on PSS Mental Health's journey toward building the SOS program within the CNMI Public School System, follow them on their social media on @haligi.aware on Instagram and Haligi Aware on Facebook. (PR)

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# CPA continues investigation into Rota cargo complaints

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority continues to look into complaints regarding the way Rota Terminal and Transfer handled cargo from Guam to Rota, which allegedly resulted in four containers filled with goods not making it to Rota vendors.

Last week, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to investigate the alleged mishandling of four containers filled with goods that were shipped from Guam to Rota.

According to Manglona, despite being given advance notice of the arrival of M/V Tamaw Voyage V—the vessel that was



King-Hinds

used to transport 15 containers filled with goods from Guam to Rota—RTT only unloaded 11 containers, leaving the remaining four to be returned to Guam.

“This left multiple business owners, and the Rota community, to shake their heads in dismay as RTT personnel never offloaded the four remaining containers which, instead, remained aboard and were returned to Guam. This left Rota vendors with zero to show for their efforts other than shipping bills for cargo shipped but

never unloaded. Will RTT compensate the vendors? Will the CPA?” he asked.

Manglona also added that RTT has had a longstanding pattern of similar failings that have allegedly gone unpenalized and he is asking that CPA investigate the matter.

In an interview with CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she did confirm that issues with RTT in relation to shipping has always been a concern for the Rota community.

“The issue with the RTT as it relates to shipping has been a longstanding concern by the

community of Rota. Really, it is something we regularly monitor with regards to their compliance with the agreement that we have with them for the exclusive stevedoring license on Rota,” she said.

As for this recent incident, King-Hinds said CPA has looked into the matter and learned that RTT was unable to unload the remaining four containers due to harsh water conditions.

“The most recent concern with regard to the four containers that were supposedly not unloaded, that concern has

been raised by Sen. Paul to CPA for us to further look into and throughout the course of this week or so, we’ve been receiving inconsistent communications to include emails from SeaBridge, basically stating that the issue with the unloading of the four containers was a result of the conditions of the water. This was also confirmed by folks at Saipan Shipping. There was also communications from the actual crane operator himself who stated that those were the reasons,” she said.

King-Hinds said CPA continues to monitor the situation but

also wants to ensure that RTT can continue to provide its stevedoring services to Rota.

“These are the things we continue to monitor because we want ensure that that service is provided on a regular basis to the community of Rota,” she said.

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## Sophia Kim graduates from PSU with Chemistry degree; summa cum laude

Sophia Cheeun Kim, who is the daughter of GiYeong Kim and Yunkee Park of Saipan, recently graduated with summa cum laude honors from Portland State University, with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry.

Aside from the summa cum laude honor, Kim was also awarded the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Award, Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Chemistry/Biochemistry, and the American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry.

Kim is an alumna of Marianas High School, where she graduated in the Top 4.

Kim will soon be attending the University of Oregon for her graduate school. (Saipan Tribune)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sophia Cheeun Kim graduates from Portland State University, with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry, summa cum laude.

## House OKs HNP revolving fund account

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Attao

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a bill that seeks to establish a revolving fund account for the Health Network Program, or the former Medical Referral Program.

Under House Bill 23-57, money collected from certain tax penalties and liens will go into the HNP revolving fund account for use by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

All 17 House members present yesterday voted “yes” to a motion to pass the bill. Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), and Julie Marie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) were absent but excused from the session.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) introduced

the legislation yesterday. Several other House members co-sponsored the bill.

Before the voting, Attao said the legislation will not touch anything in the general fund as these are monies that are owed the central government.

For legislative intent, Attao said, he wants to make sure that should the HNP ever change its name in the future, this legislation will also adopt to the change of the name of HNP.

Under the legislation, the HNP revolving fund account is established within the Department of Finance for the purpose of funding travel and housing costs for the HNP.

The chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. shall be the expenditure authority for all disbursements associated with the HNP fund account.

These fund accounts shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The account shall be audited annually.

*Important Legal Notice from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida*

### If you are an Automotive Salvager and/or Recycler, you could get benefits from a class action settlement

*Si desea recibir esta notificación en español, llámenos o visite nuestra página web.*

Settlements have been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that Automotive Salvagers and/or Recyclers sustained economic losses because they purchased certain vehicles containing allegedly defective airbags manufactured by Takata Corporation and its affiliates. The Settlements include certain BMW, Ford, Honda, Mazda, Nissan, Toyota, and Subaru vehicles that contain or contained certain Takata PSAN Inflators (“Inflators”) in their driver or passenger front airbag that (i) have been recalled, or (ii) may be recalled or contain a desiccant and that may be subject to future recall as defined in the Settlement Agreement (the “Subject Vehicles”). BMW, Ford, Honda, Mazda, Nissan, Toyota, and Subaru (“Defendants”) deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing and the Court has not decided who is right.

#### Am I included in the proposed Settlements?

The Settlements include the following persons and entities (“Class Members”):

- Automotive Salvagers and/or Recyclers in the United States, its territories and possessions, and the District of Columbia in existence at the time of the issuance of the Preliminary Approval Order that purchased a Subject Vehicle containing a Takata Inflator and that currently engage, or at the time of purchase were engaged, in automotive salvage and/or recycling.

A full list of Subject Vehicles and what constitutes an “Automotive Salvager and/or Recycler” are at [AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com](http://AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com). The Settlements do not involve claims for personal injury or damage to any property other than the Subject Vehicles.

#### What do the Settlements provide?

If and/or when implemented and pursuant to the Enhanced Inflator Recovery Program (or BMW’s enhanced Takata Inflator Certification Program) (the “Enhanced Programs”), which will run for two years, the Settlement Claims Administrator will locate, identify, purchase, recover, and destroy (or, under BMW’s program, certify to the destruction of) Inflators in or from Class Members’ Subject Vehicles that have been recalled as of the date of the individual Settlement Agreements. Defendants that had existing programs regarding recovered and/or deployed or missing inflators will pay eligible Class Members 15% more per recovered and/or deployed or missing Inflator than they currently pay under their existing program(s). Those Defendants that did not have existing programs regarding recovered and/or deployed and/or missing inflators are implementing such programs, to the extent described in the agreements available at [AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com](http://AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com). These additional payments do not apply to Inflators for which the Defendants have already made a payment prior to the Enhanced Programs, or to payments made after the expiration of the two-year Enhanced Programs. More information on the benefits and requirements of the Settlements are available at [AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com](http://AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com).

#### How can I participate in the Enhanced Programs?

If and/or when implemented, you may submit claim(s) to participate in the Enhanced Programs. Instructions on submitting claim(s) can be found in the Claim Forms at [AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com](http://AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com).

#### What are my options?

You are not required to do anything in response to this notice unless you wish to exclude yourself from the Settlements or file an objection. If you do not exclude yourself, then if the court approves the Settlements, you may recover any benefits to which you may be entitled under the Settlements, and you will be legally bound by the Settlement terms, including the release of claims. The potential available benefits are more fully described in the Settlement Agreements, available at [AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com](http://AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com). If you want to exclude yourself from the Settlements, and not receive any benefits to which you may be eligible, then you must **exclude yourself by October 4, 2023**. You may **object to the Settlements by October 4, 2023**. You cannot both exclude yourself from and object to the Settlements. The deadlines and procedures for requesting exclusion from the Settlements or filing an objection are also explained on the settlement website.

#### Fairness Hearing.

The Court will hold a final approval or “fairness” hearing on **November 3, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. Eastern time** to consider whether to finally approve the Settlements and a request for \$188,070.75 in attorneys’ costs and expenses for the Settlements. Plaintiffs’ counsel are not seeking anything in attorneys’ fees or for class representative awards associated with the Settlements. You may appear at the fairness hearing, either by yourself or through an attorney you hire, but you don’t have to hire an attorney because class counsel will be there to represent your and settlement class’s interests. For more information on all of these options, call or visit the website below.

**AirbagRecyclerSettlement.com**

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# Palau leader stresses need for US help to deter China

**TOKYO (AP)**—The Pacific island nation of Palau needs U.S. help to deter China's "unwanted activities" around its coasts, its leader said Thursday and repeated his government's determination to maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Palau's President Surangel Whipps Jr. told a news conference in Tokyo that three Chinese boats have made "uninvited" entries into his country's waters since he took office in 2021, stressing the need for further U.S. backing to enhance deterrence against China's assertive move in the region.

"The United States is responsible for our security and we would also inform them

that we need them to engage and help us in deterring any unwanted activities," Whipps said.

Whipps said Chinese vessels appeared to be conducting surveying activities in the Palau waters "without our permission." He said they sailed in straight from China as they approached very slowly over sensitive areas where fiber optic cables exist. He described the activity as "a violation of international rules-based order."

The first thing Palau's maritime authorities would do in such cases is to call up the



Whipps Jr.

U.S. Coast Guard but its units are based in Guam and may not always be able to come to the rescue, such as in case of a typhoon, he said.

Even though China's presence is important for Palau's economy and tourism, the island nation still maintains diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

"Our administration has made clear that we are enemies to none, friends to all," Whipps said. "As long as we are friends of Taiwan, we accept anybody to be our friend, but that friend cannot tell us you cannot be somebody else's friend because he

is not our friend."

Whipps suggested his country was punished for keeping diplomatic ties with Taiwan, citing the sharp drop in Chinese tourists, who accounted for about two-thirds of Palau's tourism until late 2010s, to near zero.

"We will continue to be a strong ally and friend of Taiwan," said Whipps Jr. "As long as I'm the president, I'm not changing."

The United States and its ally Japan, as well as Australia, have been stepping up their economic and security cooperation and engagement in the Pacific region in the face of China's increasingly assertive activity there.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, during his talks Thursday with Whipps, pledged Japanese support for Palau's tourism promotion, infrastructure reinforcement and other areas, while strengthening economic and security cooperation between the two

countries.

During his visit in Japan, Whipps also visited the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to see its preparation for a planned release of treated radioactive wastewater into the Pacific Ocean this summer.

## HOUSE

From page 1

House members for allowing the legislation to be placed on the bill calendar for action.

Attao said that, as they all know, the CNMI is facing a lot of financial challenges and if they don't start addressing those financial challenges or deficits, it will just continue to increase over the next couple of years.

He said when the Office of Grants Management was first created in the 19th Legislature, they were able to obtain additional funds for the CNMI.

"Unfortunately, what we didn't realize back then was only 40% of those monies were being used. The other 60%...was never remitted to

the Legislature for appropriation purposes," Attao said.

Therefore, the intent of House Bill 23-56 is to make sure that those funds will address financial deficits, he said.

"The more grants we get, the quicker we pay off these deficits that we've been inheriting over the last couple of years," Attao said.

Should they ever exhaust the financial deficit, future House members can revisit this statute and will be able to address other pressing needs that they will be facing in the future, he added.

In response to a question by Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian), Attao said the bill does not touch the CNMI budget whatsoever.

"This one will not touch any of our general fund or any local funds for that matter, but

will be using indirect costs to address the financial obligations," he said.

Attao stated in the legislation that indirect cost reimbursements from grants provide a source of money for paying down the CNMI's budget deficit.

He said 40% of those funds currently are directed to the Office of Grants Management. Attao said the remaining 60% is not currently directed for any specific program.

He said the purpose of the legislation is to direct the remaining percentage of the total of the annual direct cost revenue or reimbursement from each grant to address the financial deficit.

Under the legislation, the remaining 50% of the total direct cost revenue or reimbursement by fiscal year shall

be deposited into a special account separated from the general fund and shall be utilized for the sole purpose of reducing the government's financial deficit.

Such funds shall be without fiscal year limitation and under the expenditure authority of the Finance secretary.

Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan) said a lot of people don't understand the significance of this bill.

"This bill would literally help reduce the deficit. Right now our deficit is over \$100 million. Our Gross Domestic Product if you compare that we're upside down. We are over 100% flipped upside down. We're technically broke," Aldan said. "It will help reduce the deficit that our children will not have to bear the costs."

## MEDICAID

From page 1

effect last June 1.

"We wish it didn't have to be this way but our hands are tied," she said.

Benito elaborated that these notices were sent out to its private vendors, which means Medicaid beneficiaries seeking medical services can only be treated at the Commonwealth Health Center or the Kagman Health Center until further notice.

*Saipan Tribune* also learned that due to this notice, Medicaid patients may also be restricted to the CHCC in-house pharmacy for their medication.

Benito said it is now up to the Legislature to find the money that will allow the CNMI to fulfill the matching fund requirement.

"The people of the CNMI are calling for your help," she said.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to reach out to Finance Secretary Tracy Norita yesterday to

comment on the situation but to no avail.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* spoke with Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), vice chair for the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, and he stated that the Office of the Governor has put in a request for \$7.2 million to be allocated to the CNMI Medicaid program. He said the proposal will be heard by the committee sometime in July.

Currently, the federal match rate for the CNMI's Medicaid is at 83%, meaning the CNMI would only shoulder 17% of Medicaid-related costs. Previously, the CNMI was shouldering 50% before it was lowered to 45% and the CNMI still could not afford it.

However, the 17% match is still proving to be a challenge for the CNMI.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Marianas' current 83% federal match rate, technically called the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, is higher than it is for any state.

## TRAINING

From page 1

Along with the first responders in the course were University of Guam students Lucio Aldan and Angel Roligat, and Guam National Guardsman Ryder Alvarez.

The training was conducted by Bella Wings Aviation president and co-founder Charlie Hermosa. With Hermosa in the training were BWA co-founder Pearla Cordero, coordinator Natalia Faculo, and Stephen Librando, BWA's director of Virtual Inspection and Construction Engineering.

Hermosa said the drone training is intended to showcase the capability and possibilities of drone technology in rescuing and community aid/assistance. There were also drones of all sizes that were on display.

Hermosa said the drones are part of their demonstration, but at this point no agencies will purchase them yet, although they will be giving recommendations based on their department's mission.

The program came about after DFEMS officials expressed an interest in BWA's drones. With all the different departments' many needs, such as to help those who are drowning, search and rescue, fire detection, infrared, and so on, "it made sense for them to explore this avenue,"

said Hermosa.

"The program is dedicated to balance out the regulations of flying drones properly and the tactical training that goes with it. So it's not just about getting their regulations and license in place, but it's also getting the time to be able to fly these drones. There's a lot of personnel in the class that are interested in learning how to fly these drones," he said.

DFEMS public information officer Robert Mojica said, "I think the program and idea for drone capabilities on the island would be an amazing asset to DFEMS and other agencies."

"Search and rescue missions would be cut in half with better aerial videos done in real-time. If we had a search and rescue mission at night and the drone has thermal imaging and night vision, we could use it to better search the area of the last known location of an individual or group of people," said Mojica. "When it's dry season and the fires in the mountains of other remote areas are hard to get to, we could use drones to find access points."

BWA is a Guam-based unmanned aerial vehicle company focused on providing virtual inspection in construction engineering, package delivery, search and rescue, manufacturing and training.

## DPL

From page 1

25, 2014.

According to the notice, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Santos gave Alter City Group 60 days to cure the breaches of the lease agreement, or else the lessee shall automatically be in default of the lease and all of its rights under the lease are terminated.

Among the required corrective actions is to complete in the 60-day Phase 1 of the project, which is the construction of a 500-room Plumeria Golf & Casino Resort, including 150 corporate villas, an 18-hole international golf course, a clubhouse with driving range facility, a medical center, farmer's market, training center, retail services, conservatory, and staff dormitories.

Santos also informed Alter City Group that it has failed to pay \$68,000 in rent to DPL for the period from Nov. 1, 2022 to Oct. 31, 2023.

DPL has used \$68,000 of the lessee's \$300,000 security

deposit and applied it to the company's account to pay for unpaid advance annual rent due for that period.

Alter City Group was given 30 days to remit to DPL its payment of \$68,000 to replenish the required \$300,000 security deposit.

The secretary noted that the lease provides that Alter City Group agrees that within six months from the date of the lease, it will submit to DPL evidence of its sources of financing for the proposed development of a first-class hotel villa resort complex and associated amenities. On May 9, 2016, DPL issued a notice of default for Alter City Group's failure to comply with this financing requirement.

Santos said during subsequent discussions, Alter City Group indicated that a performance bond from China Construction was forthcoming.

On March 1, 2017, DPL notified Alter City Group that the department would conditionally waive the company's failure to comply with the financing requirement until Oct. 31, 2017.

Santos said such waiver was subject to Alter City Group's

execution of a lease agreement amending the financing requirement provision to require the company to submit to DPL evidence of its source of financing within 36 months of approval of the land lease by the Legislature. Santos said it is unclear whether this amendment was ever executed.

However, she said, on Sept. 13, 2018 DPL gave the company until Sept. 30, 2018, to submit documentation of its source of financing. The secretary said the lessee failed to submit the required evidence by the deadline.

With respect to other failures, Santos said Alter City Group failed to submit its required CNMI monthly Business Gross Revenue Tax monthly return; failed to secure all required permits; and failed to submit complete construction plans and specifications.

She said the lessee also failed to complete the required construction; failed to submit the required financial statement; failed to meet the required public benefit obligation; failed to close a dump site on Tinian; failed to construct a

monumental statue; and failed to maintain insurance.

Santos said in order to cure lessee's breach of the lease and to avoid default, the company must complete all of those requirements.

Alter City officials issued a check in the amount of \$664,000 during the preliminary land lease signing agreement last Sept. 25, 2014. The check represented \$300,000 security deposit and \$340,000 in advance land lease rent.

The land lease agreement between Alter City Group and DPL calls for an initial 25-year lease with the option to extend for 15 more years.

The three-phased project was supposed to include the construction of 1,000 hotel rooms, water parks, an 18-hole golf course, villas, casino facilities and related tourism amenities, to be completed within 12 years.

In October 2014, the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously approved during a joint session the public land lease agreement between the Alter City Group and DPL.



# SCC launches career exploration internship program

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday the start of the 2023 Career Exploration Internship Program, which is a seven-week internship program, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System, that offers junior and senior high school students a unique opportunity to develop skills and gain valuable experience in various career industries.

The program is set to kick off today, June 21, and will conclude on Friday, Aug. 4, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the professional world. Through this collaborative effort between the Chamber and PSS, the internship aims to foster the growth and development of the local workforce by equipping the youth with essential skills and industry exposure, one student at a time.

“We are thrilled to launch the 2023 Career Exploration Internship Program and offer high school students [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota an immersive experience in the professional world,” said Kim Camacho, executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce. “Our goal is to support and nurture the future leaders of our community by providing them with hands-on opportunities to explore different career industries.”

The program’s participating companies include AP Group, LLC., Bank of Saipan, Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Transpacific International Inc., Commonwealth HealthCare Corp., Marpac Saipan, Paradise Dental Spa, PHI Pharmacy, Plumeria Steak House, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Triple J Enterprises, Inc., and Pacifica Insurance. **(SCC)**

# UOG launching its first doctoral program in 2024

When the University of Guam received overwhelmingly positive feedback expressing the need for a doctoral program, the School of Education viewed it as a leveling-up of the academic enterprise.

The creation of UOG’s first-ever doctoral program would potentially open new paths toward social mobility and further career opportunities for educators and professionals in Guam, all of Micronesia, and abroad.

On June 12, the university announced its new “Doctor of Education in Instructional and Academic Leadership” during a press conference.

Senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez; School of Education dean Alicia Cruz Aguon; SOE faculty Dr. Kathrine Gutierrez and Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero; and Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, interim vice provost, Academic Excellence, Graduate Studies, Online Learning participated in the press conference.

Preceded by the work of the doctorate ad hoc committee in 2019, Gutierrez and Leon Guerrero became the key developers of the program along with Aguon, who described it as a collective effort that took years.

The EdD is aimed at meeting the needs of educators who would otherwise look beyond Guam—some faced with difficult decisions to uproot families or temporarily leave home—in pursuit of an academic degree of this level.

Enriquez and Aguon shared personal experiences about their pursuit of doctoral degrees away from Guam many years ago. Being away from family and budget constraints were among the hurdles they faced.

Aguon described the doctoral program as groundbreaking. After more than 70 years of UOG’s start as a teaching college, it is now on the brink of offering a doctoral degree program that will help kindergarten-through 12th-grade educators and education administrators gain further success, she said.

“This is monumental for Guam, this is monumental for the University of Guam, in the region. Bringing this kind of a program to our community and our people is a game-changer. It’s transformative,” said Santos-Bamba.


A 2020 School of Education survey shows more than half—500-plus respondents—out of 900 were in favor of UOG offering a doctoral program geared toward instructional leadership, educational leadership, and management. Postsecondary faculty, kindergarten-12th grade faculty, education administrators, staff at the school district or state level, professionals in a private non-education sector, professionals in a non- education government sector, and others responded to the survey.

The proposed EdD connects to UOG’s strategic initiatives to grow as a research university offering advanced professional and doctorate degrees, enhance the student experience, and promote revenue growth for the institution. **(UOG)**




UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam announced the creation of its first doctoral program in a press conference on Monday, June 12, 2023, on campus. Senior vice president and provost Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, center, led the announcement of the degree offering called “Doctor of Education in Instructional and Academic Leadership.” Also joining her, from left: School of Education faculty Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero and Dr. Kathrine Gutierrez; dean Alicia Cruz Aguon; and Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, interim vice provost, Academic Excellence, Graduate Studies, Online Learning.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-023

Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench  
And Portable Meter Test Bench

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one (1) permanent meter test bench and one (1) portable meter test bench for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist water operation staff with CUC’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-023, Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench and Portable Meter Test Bench” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 16, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE

Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-072

Opening Date: Friday, June 16, 2023  
Closing Date: Friday, June 30, 2023

POSITION TITLE:

DEPARTMENT:

LOCATION:

ANNUAL SALARY:

CONTRACT:

POSITION(S):

Training & Development Coordinator

Admin / Executive Director Office

Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA

\$37,756.00 to \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt

Contracted

One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Training & Development Manager or his/her designee.

**Duties:**

- Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors, or customer representatives.
- Design, plan, organize, or direct orientation and training programs for employees or customers.
- Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
- Present information with a variety of instructional techniques or formats, such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos, or lectures.
- Obtain, organize, or develop training procedure manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials.
- Monitor, evaluate, or record training activities or program effectiveness.
- Develop alternative training methods if expected improvements are not seen.
- Evaluate training materials prepared by instructors, such as outlines, text, or handouts.
- Evaluate modes of training delivery, such as in-person or virtual, to optimize training effectiveness, training costs, or environmental impacts.
- Keep up with developments in area of expertise by reading current journals, books, or magazine articles.
- Negotiate contracts with clients for desired training outcomes, fees, or expenses.
- Attend meetings or seminars to obtain information for use in training programs or to inform management of training program status.
- Monitor training costs and prepare budget reports to justify expenditures.
- Select and assign instructors to conduct training.
- Schedule classes based on availability of classrooms, equipment, or instructors.
- Supervise, evaluate, or refer instructors to skill development classes.
- Devise programs to develop executive potential among employees in lower-level positions.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned. Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** Bachelor’s Degree in a directly related field and 2 years of professional experience in the assigned field including; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation.

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics. Must have: Advanced understanding of basic office applications, including MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.) Must have good communication skills and be capable of writing clear correspondences such as memorandums, letters, emails, etc. Must have proper phone and email etiquette.

**Skills in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing:**

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

**Physical Demands:**

- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



# Six family-hosts wanted for KSKK youth group

The Saipan Mayor’s Office is looking for six families to volunteer to host children from the KSKK exchange group during the duration of their stay on Saipan.

The International Youth Exchange Association or KSKK group will be visiting Saipan for an exchange program from July 24 to 31. This will be the 42nd time the KSKK group has visited Saipan and the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the KSKK group is to promote and cultivate international understanding of youth and to advocate for friendly relations and exchanges between different countries.

The participants in the

group include 12 students: six boys and six girls, as well as one female chaperone.

The Saipan Mayor’s Office will host a variety of activities and trips for the group. These activities will have an educational emphasis such as trips to historical sites around the island, local museums, and a World War II guided tour. The group will also be making a visit to the Man’amko Center.

Those who are interested are encouraged to contact Hiroko Tenorio at the Saipan Mayor’s Office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor’s office is also open through lunch. *(PR)*

# \$100K bail set for man accused of sexual assault

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com (btr) REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on one of its employees who is accused of sexually assaulting a co-worker.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed last Friday a \$100,000 cash bail on William Abraczinkas, who is the law clerk of Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Abraczinkas, 34, is accused of sexually assaulting a co-worker last April 8. The defendant is facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Following his bail hearing, Camacho remanded Ab-

raczinkas back to Department of Corrections custody. He was ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on June 26 while his arraignment is set for July 3.

According to court documents, the victim went to the Department of Public Safety’s headquarters last May 26 to make a walk-in complaint against Abraczinkas, whom she accused of sexually assaulting her at his apartment.

She told investigators that she and Abraczinkas had just finished swimming at a nearby beach when the incident happened. The victim claims she managed to leave when Abraczinkas fell asleep after sexually assaulting her.

The victim told police that she didn’t tell anyone about the incident because she didn’t want to disrupt Govendo’s court operations and draw negative attention to the court, but then decided to file her complaint after learning that Abraczinkas had filed a sexual harassment complaint against her with the judiciary’s Human Resources office.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Job Title:** Refrigeration Mechanic  
**Hours:** Full-Time

**Duties and Responsibilities:**  
Install and repair industrial and commercial refrigerating systems. Observe and test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components using electrical or mechanical equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts and reassemble repaired systems. Perform mechanical overhaul and refrigerant reclaiming. Install wiring to connect components to an electrical power source. Mount compressor, condenser, and components in specified locations, using hand tools, power tools, or acetylene welding equipment. Do other duties as assigned.

**Qualification Requirements:**  
High school graduate with two years work experience as a Refrigeration Mechanic. Must be EPA Certified. Must have a valid driver’s license. Able to monitor gauges, dials, and other indicators to make sure machines and equipment are working properly. Able to use hand tools and power tools including acetylene-welding equipment. Can lift heavy objects occasionally. Self-driven, hardworking, and can work independently.

**Job Title:** Mechanic  
**Hours:** Full-Time

**Duties and Responsibilities:**  
Repair automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Align vehicles’ front ends. Tear down, repair, and rebuild faulty assemblies, such as power systems, steering systems, and linkages. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services, such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Plan work procedures, using charts, technical manuals, and experience. Follow checklists to ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Maintain cleanliness of work area. Repair radiator leaks. Repair and service air conditioning, heating, engine cooling, and electrical systems. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear, using micrometers, calipers, and gauges. Overhaul or replace carburetors, blowers, generators, distributors, starters, and pumps. Repair or replace parts such as pistons, rods, gears, valves, and bearings. Rewire ignition systems, lights, and instrument panels. Repair manual and automatic transmissions. Repair or replace shock absorbers. Replace and adjust headlights. Install and repair accessories, such as radios, heaters, mirrors, and windshield wipers. Rebuild parts, such as crankshafts and cylinder blocks.

**Qualification Requirements:**  
High school graduate with two years work experience as a vehicle mechanic. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Ability to use acetylene/cutting torches, dial calipers, drill/punch presses, handheld diagnostic computers, and bleeder/flare nut/pump/slug wrenches. Ability to diagnose gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly.

**Company:** Yaong Corporation  
**Location:** Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

**To apply:**  
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyen Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Background check may be required prior to employment

# Palacios nominates Jorgensen to serve on CPA board

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated lawyer Bruce Jorgensen to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board.

According to Palacios’ letter to Senate president Edith Deleon Guerrero dated June 1, Jorgensen, if confirmed, will serve the remaining term of former board member Barrie C. Toves, which is set to expire on Oct. 7, 2025.

The nomination requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

To date, the Senate has yet to confirm Jorgensen’s nomination.

Jorgensen previously served on the CPA transition team for the Palacios administration and was tasked with looking into CPA’s federal and regulatory compliance. According to him, the CPA is in a “crisis” for multiple reasons, the most worrisome of which is CPA’s alleged lack of funding prospects to avert a fiscal downturn.

In addition, Jorgensen also claimed that CPA also faces a crisis due to management issues and alleged prospective sanctions by the Federal Aviation Administration. *(Kimberly Esmores)*



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 21, 2023      CLOSING DATE: July 24, 2023      TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-015	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	\$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 per annum (UNGRADED)

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at the NMHC website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/  
**JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

Name: LOU KRISTINE FRANCISCO BAYLON  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 287-9776

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**


In the :  
Matter of :  
the Petition for :  
the Change :  
of Name of :  
**LOU KRISTINE FRANCISCO BAYLON**  
Petitioner :

FCD CN  
CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 23-0219  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**


Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 26, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### RFP NO.: RFP23-OPD-42300078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 14, 2023      TIME: 9:00 A.M.

## “CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL:  
(<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>)

OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANO IGLECIAS  
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



# Filipino community gets together for ‘Pistang Pinoy’

The United Filipino Organization hosted the traditional *Pistang Pinoy* 2023 at the Marianas Business Plaza last June 18, 2023, in celebration of the 125th Philippine Independence Day, with hundreds of the CNMI’s Filipino community joining the event that coincidentally fell on Father’s Day.

The event, which took place six days after the official celebration of Philippine Independence Day last June 12, featured fiesta-like activities with vendors, whole-day entertainment, contests, and raffle drawings with more than a thousand cash and items as prizes. Israel Libut won the grand prize of \$500 cash.

In acknowledgment of the Father’s Day celebration that same day, *Pistang Pinoy* was highlighted with the Father &



Green Meadow School performers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Israel Libut is presented his \$500 cash prize.

Son lookalike contest. Tied in first place were the pairs of Andrew and Kyrie Sublay and Bien and Bien Paul Ramos.

The other participants were Ryan and Rydel Sicat, Randy and Ethan Tisoy, Nefre and Reica Austria, and Ryan and Ryle Odicta. All participants received cash prizes.

The other highlight was the show of the Amazing Drag Queens, with dancing and lip synch performances of Shine, Rollie, and Zade, with choreography by Ernie Molina and gowns sponsored by the House of Beautiful Creation by Bench Legaspi.

The event’s other performers were Ellen Vidanes, Erma Tubera, Ace and Adrian Docca, Donnel Isip, Elmer Belgado, Mharkee, Ronilo De Belen, Benjie Deniega, Fitbeat Familia Zumba, Unshakeable Band, Gemma Monton, Groove Theory Band, Juliana Kai Ortiz, Roanne Dela Cruz Palma, Green Meadow School teachers with principal Mila Songcuan, Xtreme Zumba,

Rizza Mae Guevarra, and Forever Young Dance Group.

The event’s vendors included 5 pcs Colecciones, Yadokari Kitchen, Tres Marias, 9 Eleven Resto & Bar, RJ Pizza, Oink, Rendezvous, Citrine, Heavenly Bites, Lamesa, JTM Corp., Chelu Shave Ice, and STAG.

With the theme “*Kalayaan, Kinabukasan at Kasaysayan*” (Freedom, Future, and History), *Pistang Pinoy* 2023’s major sponsors were the TSL Foundation, IT&E, and RNV Construction. Other sponsors included the Marianas Business Plaza, Marcelo Masilungan of SuperTech Inc., JTM Corp., Coca-Cola Beverage Saipan, Saipan Ice & Water Co., EFG Pacific Holdings, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, Saipan Maga Haga Lady Eagles Group, Puerto Rico Bento, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy and Abby Whang, SM, New Paradise Florist, Micronesia Renewable Energy,

and AYD Services.

The UFO is composed of 10 organizations: Bayani Association, Bicol Association, Sto. Nino Group, Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Tau Gamma Phi/Triskelion, Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, Saipan Building & Fixing Computer Users Group, MDX Amateur Radio Group and Akap Pinoy.

The event was hosted by Annamae Adaza and RV Caberos. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rollie, Shine, and Zade.



LEIGH GASES

The United Filipino Organization hosted the traditional *Pistang Pinoy* 2023 at the Marianas Business Plaza last June 18, 2023, in celebration of the 125th Philippine Independence Day



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Filipino Organization volunteers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Father & Son Lookalike contestants.



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 121Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The classroom can be stressful. Now Missouri is fining teachers who want to leave?

**T**he pandemic and its aftermath have taken a terrible toll on the teaching profession across the country, and Missouri is no exception to the rule. That's why the state last year set up a Blue Ribbon Commission to figure out how to attract and retain teachers. The commission meets again this week in its quest to figure out how to create a better climate and culture for the state's educators.

It's a worthy goal. Our recommendation: more carrots, fewer sticks.

Missouri teachers could certainly use a few carrots. It's long been known that the state's teacher salaries are among the lowest in the nation. "Missouri educators feel undervalued and under-supported," the commission reported in a "Key Takeaways" document from its May meeting. Part of the problem is pay: "The rising cost of inflation hinders their ability to pay for daily living expenses."

We hope the shortfall will be remedied by the budget bill currently sitting on Gov. Mike Parson's desk. The bill includes funding to raise baseline teacher salaries to \$38,000 a year.

That's a good start, but it's not enough.

For many teachers in many of the state's schools, classroom climate and overwork are also issues. "Insufficient staffing and the lack of resources can result in overcrowded classrooms, limited access to materials and technology, and increased administrative tasks that take away from instructional time and infringe on their own family time," the commission reported.

Being a teacher—in Missouri and elsewhere—is often hard, stressful work.

So we are concerned by reports that Missouri school districts are increasingly attempting to use punitive measures against teachers who decide, for whatever reason, that they're not up to the demands of the job.

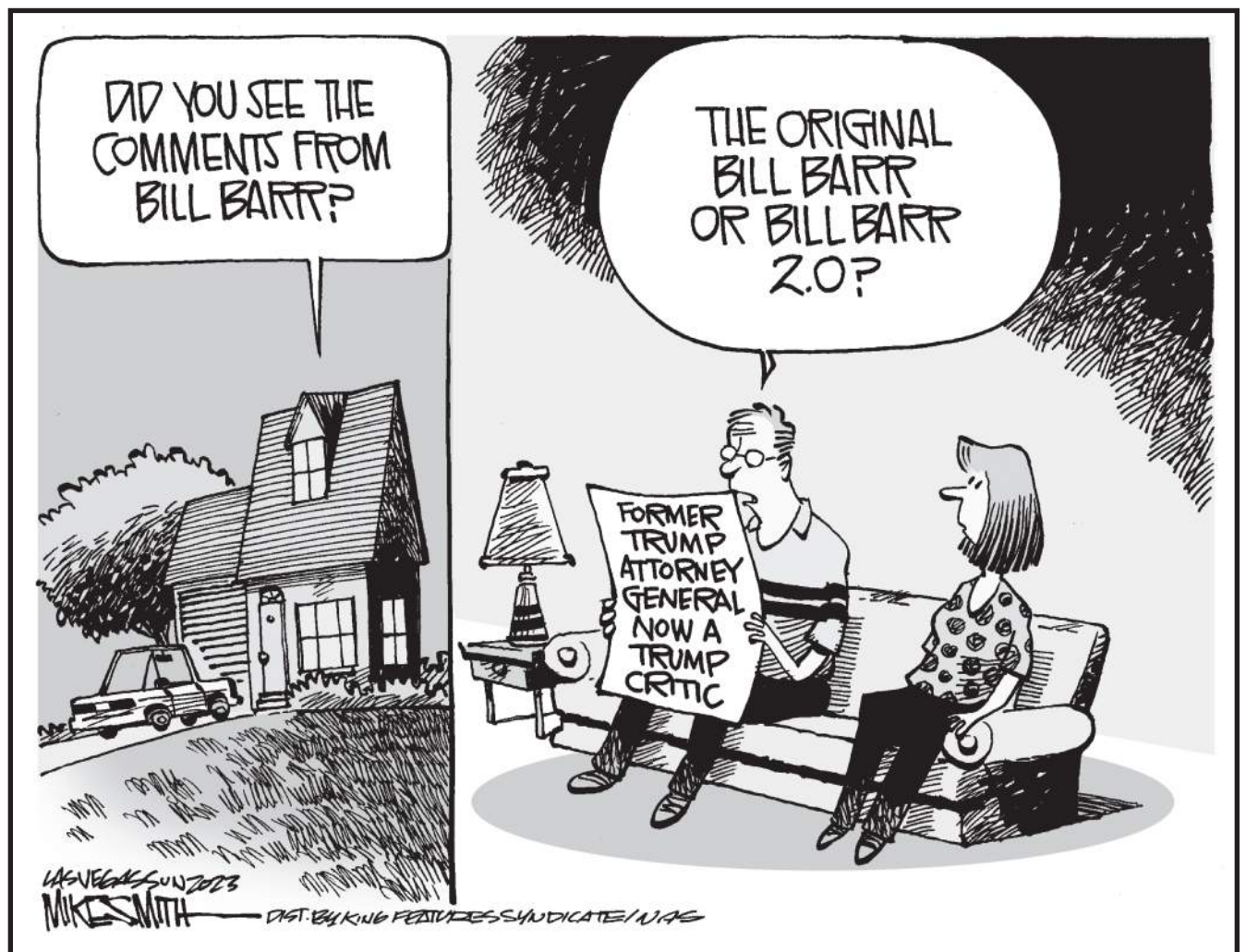
The Springfield News-Leader reported that some districts are imposing penalties of up to \$10,000 for educators who withdraw from the classroom before the end of their contracts. In a few cases, the districts have even sought to suspend the teaching licenses of those who leave early. There were a record 11 such cases in the last year, the paper reported.

Three of those cases went before the State Board of Education last week. Two resulted in suspensions. One did not. And that last case demonstrates why the issue is so fraught.

The educator in question was hired before the 2022-23 school year to teach Spanish in middle school and high school in the Hancock Place School District in St. Louis. She quit just a few weeks into the term, though, apparently overwhelmed.

The teacher "was having behavior difficulties with students," the state reported. "She felt like it was a hostile work environment. She was physically threatened by students on numerous occasions." And she would "often break down in class." The

See **CLASSROOM** on Page 9



## In the global struggle with populism, elections are a salve

By **CLIFFORD A. YOUNG** and **JUSTIN GEST**  
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

**A**s Donald Trump's star rises again even with multiple criminal indictments looming, many observers fear that anti-establishment populism in America is no longer just a flirtation, but a feature of our democratic system.

More generally, it has become common to think that democracies anywhere—with their open public spheres, majoritarian institutions and propensity for a frustrating incrementalism—have fueled the rise of populist leaders and demagogues. Examples of the success of "strongmen" leaders abound in Brazil, Hungary, India, Italy, Turkey, El Salvador and the United States.

But it is equally possible that the very attributes of democracy that have invigorated populism are also those that will ultimately moderate its spread. Democracies' transparent public spheres expose populists' corruption, and the separations of power in a democracy tend to hold populists responsible for failures of governance.

New evidence suggests that elections—the hallmark of democracy itself—may be an equally powerful check.

According to a new Ipsos poll of about 26,000 people across 28 countries worldwide, recent democratic elections are associated with a decline in the sentiment that "the system is broken." Independently of who is elected, democratic processes themselves may provide a cathartic release of frustration and reassure people of their enduring power.

Between April 2021 and November 2022, there was a global decline of broken-system sentiment, roughly returning to levels last seen in 2016. The six countries with the steepest drop each conducted a national election resulting in major political change; none of the four countries showing an uptick in this sentiment had a national election during the same period.

Since 2021, there has been a 7% global drop in the perception that the "economy is rigged," a 5% and 6% drop in the perception that politicians "don't care" and experts "don't understand" average people, respectively, and a 5% drop in the belief that the country needs a strong leader to take control "back from the rich and powerful." The global share of people who want a strong leader who is "willing to break the rules" remains effectively unchanged.

In Brazil, where the leftist former President Luis Ignacio "Lula" da Silva narrowly defeated the populist incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, 15% fewer people want a strong leader willing to break the rules. In Italy, which recently ushered a far-right government into

power, the share of people who distrust experts and seek a strong leader both dropped by 19%.

Indeed, in all six countries showing the greatest drops in anti-establishment feelings—Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Italy, Brazil and Peru—the election brought in a new head of government from a different party than the incumbent.

The greatest gains in broken-system sentiment across the board are in the United Kingdom, where the Conservative Party has two more years before it must call a national election despite experiencing historically low public approval numbers.

On average, countries that conducted national elections dating back to 2016 saw a 1.4 percentage point global drop in the feeling that traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like them, while those without elections experienced a 0.8 percentage point global increase.

Still, while elections appear to be a salve, they are not a full remedy. In the short term, elections that replace those in government have a cathartic effect; they act as a pressure relief valve for public frustration. But fresh leaders do not necessarily mean a better or more responsive government.

Indeed, the populist wave is far from ebbing. The prevailing view among most people polled by Ipsos remains that their political and economic system is indeed broken. On average, 64% feel their country's economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful and 63% say that traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like them. This is fertile ground for populist leaders and parties in the future.

But we should also not expect broken-system sentiment to disappear. So long as populist parties and leaders are operating, they will persuade a share of voters that the system is rigged against them, even when there is ample evidence to the contrary—a sort of feedback loop.

More profoundly, the polling reveals the intrinsic virtue of free and fair elections. Independent of who wins, elections mitigate the authoritarian tendencies and attitudes that lead ordinary citizens to turn against the political system.

The takeaway from this poll is clear. Policies that strengthen election institutions—both here and abroad—should be democracy advocates' central focus. As for sitting governments? Deliver on your promises, or be replaced.

*Clifford A. Young is the president of Ipsos Public Affairs, United States. Justin Gest is a professor at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Governance.*



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Reflections on my tenure in Guam

The island of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau are often referred to as the jewels of the Pacific. As I say farewell to the paradise island that I have called home for the last two years, I absolutely believe this to be true.

I assumed command of Joint Region Marianas in June 2021 during a time when the community was in the throes of COVID-19. While it was by no means easy or swift, together we weathered the worst health pandemic in this lifetime, and we made it through to the other side. Today, as I prepare to report to my next duty station, our community faces yet another challenge. We are picking up the pieces left in the wake of Typhoon Mawar.

I have seen firsthand the dedication and hard work of our federal and local inter-agency partners and community leaders. I'm optimistic that, through continued partnerships, we will rise.

We have made tremendous strides in meeting the needs of our island communities and reaching our priority objectives. Our progress, in spite of the monumental challenges, only skims the surface of what is possible when genuine and effective government-to-government collaboration is unimpeded.

Together we will reach full recovery and come back stronger. The spirit of unity, community, resilience and strength make the island of Guam and this entire region so special.

### Local and regional collaboration and partnerships

I truly believe we are all better together. This is why I have advocated for transparency and inter-agency coordination across service branches and government agencies. We are stronger when we reach past our differences to share encouragement, support, and information whenever we can. I am a firm believer in strength through unity, shared visions, and common purpose.

To that end, I'm particularly proud of the work accomplished in the Civil-Military Coordination Council. Through the CMCC we have worked to foster collaboration among the Department of Defense, Government of Guam, and federal agencies to share information, discuss, and provide recommendations for construction activities for the Marine Corps relocation to Guam. The CMCC offers an important venue for ongoing dialogue between local and federal government agencies to speak openly about the management of construction projects and the potential impact on the local community or the environment. In today's world, very little is ac-

complished alone; we are more effective when we work together to achieve common goals. Your support allows us to protect the nation by training in the region, rehearsing and refining our crisis and contingency response capabilities; and posturing our forces to ensure stability and security throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

### Stewardship in the protection of our fragile ecosystem and cultural resources

When I look out beyond Guam's shores, I am eager to recount the progress we have made for the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. We have paced our activities and construction work in the CNMI and have continuously called upon our elected leaders to guide the military's significant operational discussions and decisions. I am equally optimistic for the people of Palau and our partners in the FSM, who are working with the DoD to build or improve essential ports, runways, and infrastructure that will aid the economic development of their islands for years to come.

Infrastructure improvements, defense technologies and policies are not just boxes we have checked or talking points in meetings. Each undertaking has been guided by research, subject matter expertise and necessary consultation in order to build a solid foundation and do what is right by the community and what is right for the natural and cultural environment.

I am extremely proud of our efforts and initiatives to enhance Guam's natural environment and cultural resources. We continue to maintain plant nurseries on Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz to further our protection of hundreds of endangered flora and fauna. We have dedicated millions of dollars and numerous expert personnel to the protection of endangered animal species such as the Mariana eight-spotted butterflies. Furthermore, we have preserved the cultural resources landscape amid our unprecedented \$8.7 billion construction program. Cultural protection has been prioritized by implementing preservation processes and taking proper care of any archaeological discoveries revealed as construction progresses. We gave Sabánan Fadang Memorial a place of honor on Camp Blaz to commemorate the ancient remains that have been carefully preserved on site. I am also excited to see the continued progress of the Guam Cultural Repository in Mangilao. While this building was paid for through a federal grant, it is wholly owned and managed by the Government of Guam and will be the new home for the island's cultural resources.

By BENJAMIN NICHOLSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rear Adm. Benjamin R. Nicholson is the outgoing commander of Joint Region Marianas. He will be turning over command of the JRM to Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman in a change-of-command ceremony today, June 21, at the U.S. Marine Corps Hanger on Andersen Air Force Base.



### Looking ahead

As the senior military official for Indo-Pacific Command in Guam, it has been my distinct honor and pleasure to look through a lens of progress and protection. "*Prutehi yan Defendi I Isla'ta*" has been the bedrock of our guiding principles and the bridge connecting our interests and diverse missions.

Today, we are in the midst of planning for the implementation of a 360-degree Guam defense system to ensure we can deter our adversaries and protect the island of Guam, the people of this region, and our Pacific homeland. I am confident you will see the same expert care, compassion and understanding from incoming commander Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman as the Guam defense system is developed.

As I reflect on this tour, I am grateful my career in the Navy brought me to these beautiful communities in the Pacific. I have learned so much. Most importantly, I have learned we are all *Tao Tao Tasi*—people of the ocean.

Oceans have always brought freedom, economic prosperity, and opportunity. In the same way, the military mission in this region remains the same: to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Just as the ocean tides change, so do the faces of leadership in this region. I know this timing may seem difficult, but it is all in service of the deep and enduring undercurrent: the military mission of this region. With or without me, I know the military personnel in this region will step up in the service of protecting the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for all citizens. I leave knowing the military personnel in this region stand behind the people of this region to protect your waters, deter aggression, and maintain freedom of the seas no matter what the tides of geopolitical change may bring.

I've been honored to serve the people of Guam, the Marianas, Micronesia, and Palau, and proud of the men and women who served alongside me. I have many fond memories I will cherish.

I hold a deep fondness for this region and hope you continue to grow in resiliency, prosperity and in the spirit of *inafa' maolek*. You are in good hands with Rear Adm. Huffman, and I hope you will embrace him as kindly as you embraced me.

## CLASSROOM

From Page 8

teacher left the Hancock Place district, but not the profession—turning instead to substitute teaching to pay her bills.

That left the district in a lurch. Without a teacher, the district's middle school students were shunted to non-Spanish classes. High school students were forced into virtual classes to complete their Spanish education. "They are teaching themselves, essentially," the district superintendent testified.

It's a bad deal all around.

Students and districts deserve and need to have teachers in classrooms. It's not clear, though, what purpose would have been served by punishing a teacher unable to cope with classroom demands—or how those punishments entice other discouraged Missouri teachers to stick with the job.

"Those actions don't support all the work for recruitment and retention by policymakers and advocates—people around the country—to support greater involvement and increased interest in going into the education field," said Matt Michelson, director of policy for the Missouri State Teachers Association.

We agree. The Blue Ribbon Commission has already done a lot of work to improve the teaching environment in Missouri. A lot of work remains. The state and its teachers will be better off if the focus is on carrots, not sticks.



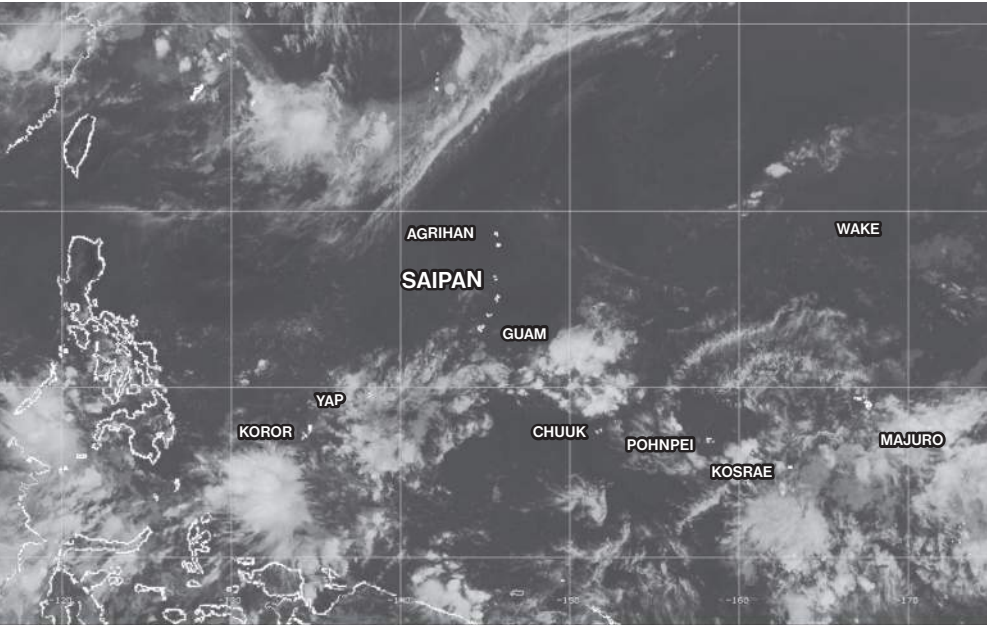
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows outgoing Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Benjamin R. Nicholson at the 2022 Guam Liberation Day.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Scattered showers. Partly sunny,		Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
88°	78°	88°	77°	88°	76°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 9:52 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, mainly composed of trade-wind swell from the east and east-southeast, plus wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:06 AM	9:27 PM	-
Thursday	8:58 AM	10:09 PM	-
Friday	9:48 AM	10:46 PM	-
Saturday	10:36 AM	11:22 PM	-
Sunday	11:23 AM	11:55 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°	
Beijing	Sunny	102° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Isolated Thunderstorms	88° / 83°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	78° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
New York	Cloudy	75° / 63°	
Osaka	Showers	82° / 70°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Busan	Rain	74° / 69°	
Rome	Sunny	95° / 67°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	82° / 66°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 52°	
Seoul	Rain	73° / 64°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	80° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:09 AM	Low Tide	1.49	
8:16 AM	High Tide	1.86	
3:57 PM	Low Tide	-0.04	
11:28 PM	High Tide	1.93	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Business

## Train Smart wants companies to take chance on students with disabilities

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Through its Work Based Learning Experience Program, Train Smart wants local companies to take a chance on students with disabilities so they can contribute to society.

“My specialty is working with adults with disabilities.

I used to be the transition coordinator for special education and it’s sad that teachers and parents try so hard to educate and train these students and yet come graduation there’s not much for them to do and so they stay home and regress,” said Train Smart founder Josephine Mesta.

She said she’s always been

an advocate for people with disabilities, especially students when she worked for the Public School System.

“So when I decided to retire, I made it one of my priorities, training individuals in general who need a little boost to get their feet in the door.”

Mesta served as guest speaker during the Saipan

Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting last June 3 at Kensington Hotel.

“What I need from the Chamber is for companies to open their doors so I can show students the different jobs they may be able to strive for after graduation, by visiting their place of employment and having our students experience what it takes to work. So far, I have five [companies] who have agreed to provide the opportunities for these youths,” she said.

An ordinary high school student may already have a hard time getting work after they graduate, what more for students with disabilities, according to Mesta.

“It’s much more for students who have challenges or disabilities. It’s harder for them so we want to start them earlier and maybe we’ll have some win-win by the time they graduate high school.”

Mesta said actual workplace experience is invaluable in transitioning students with disabilities to become productive

members of society by finding their way in the workplace.

“Workplace experiences provide students with disabilities the knowledge and skills that help them connect what they learn in school onto the worksite. It’s easy for us to say, ‘okay, this is how you can clear this table’ and we can talk about it at school, but until they see the table being cleared, then it registers and sticks. If you have experience with working with people with disabilities, that’s pretty much what we have to do,” she said.

And the carrot at the end of the stick for businesses is they can have the Work Investment Agency or Office of Vocational Rehabilitation pay the student with disabilities that they will welcome onboard to train.

She just wants an assurance from businesses though that they genuinely attempt to train students with disabilities and not just take advantage of the free ride afforded to them via WIA and OVR. Finding work for students with disabilities becomes

doubly important if you think about the alternative.

“One of the things that I saw after I left PSS is that my students who we worked so hard to train and then deploy when their parents died, it’s hard on the siblings to take care of them.”

As a former Human Resources director at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mesta said she personally knows of success stories of students with disabilities that thrived after being hired and one even worked for a company for 17 years.

“Guess what, they come to work every day and are never late. As a matter of fact, we have issues when they have to go on vacation as they don’t want to. So, we have to force the issue and tell them they have to go on vacation,” she said.

For more information on Train Smart and their slew of programs like the Work Based Learning Experience Program, call Mesta at (670) 287-9033 or email her at josephine.mesta@gmail.com.



MARK RABAGO

Train Smart founder Josephine Mesta was one of the guest speakers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its monthly meeting last June 4 at the Kensington Hotel.

## Wages finally rising in Japan, as inflation eats away consumer gains

**TOKYO (AP)**—Wages are rising in Japan more than they have in decades, at least for some workers. But so are prices, leaving many people feeling they must scrimp more than ever.

In May, the consumer price index was up 3.2% from a year earlier, well above the central bank’s target of about 2%. That’s great news for policymakers trying to get the world’s third largest economy out of the doldrums by keeping credit super cheap to spur demand and push prices higher.

But a government survey of companies with five or more employees found real wages, taking into account higher prices, fell 3% from a year earlier in April, marking the 13th straight month of declines.

Although all the major com-

panies have raised wages this year, with large labor union members landing a 4% hike, the highest in 30 years, a quarter of small and medium-size businesses—employers of more than two-thirds of all workers—gave no pay raises, according to the think tank Tokyo Shoko Research.

“My wages haven’t gone up at all,” said Kyoko Sano, a salesclerk at a Tokyo department store.

Sano feels a bit of a jolt when a cashier rings up her purchases and angst when she checks out prices of her favorite cookies, potato chips, rice crackers and drinks. Prices have all jumped, and the usual discount offerings have disappeared. Her electricity bill keeps climbing.

“There’s no point in buying things like body lotion in

advance before their prices rise. Pretty soon you run out, and you end up having to go buy them, anyway. There’s an expiration date on cosmetics,” she sighed.

Japanese workers make less across the board than their counterparts in the U.S. and Europe. A graph comparing wages for the last several years shows the line for Japan going straight across from left to right. In other nations, including the U.S., they climb gradually higher.

Average pay in Japan is about three-fourths of the OECD average of about \$51,000. Hourly rates for workers in many Tokyo service jobs average about 1,300 yen (\$9.30) an hour, up from the previous 1,000 yen (\$7.10) an hour. They’re lower in most of the country.

## Buttigieg: US ‘green corridors’ initiative is key to cutting shipping industry emissions

**YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)**—An American push to establish “green shipping corridors” is key to reducing carbon emissions from the shipping industry, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said Monday while touring the port of Yokohama near Tokyo.

Buttigieg was in Japan to attend a meeting over the weekend of transport ministers of the Group of Seven advanced economies, who reaffirmed a commitment to reducing emissions from the transport industry and to keeping navigation free and open in the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S. is seeking to develop and strengthen partnerships with “like-minded countries” to improve maritime security and keep shipping and aviation corridors open, he told The Associated Press in an interview.

Emissions from maritime transport account for about 3% of total global emissions from human activities. Some 40% of Yokohama’s emissions come from its port.

About 90% of all traded goods are moved by sea, and maritime trade volumes are expected to triple by 2050, according to the Organization

for Economic Cooperation and Development. Studies predict the industry’s share of greenhouse gas emissions could reach 15%. That has added urgency to efforts to cut such pollution.

The International Maritime Organization, which regulates commercial shipping, wants to halve its greenhouse gas releases by midcentury and may seek deeper cuts this year.

The Port of Los Angeles signed an agreement in March with port authorities of Yokohama and Tokyo to establish the so-called green shipping corridors, aiming to promote emissions reductions through use of net-zero emissions vessels and other efforts to reduce the flow of greenhouse gases from ports and shipping.

It also has formed similar partnerships with Singapore and Shanghai and the U.S. has begun discussing setting up such corridors in Southeast Asia. The initiative is also under discussion by the Quad, which includes Japan, the U.S., India and Australia.

Yokohama is the closest major port to North America across the Pacific and is a major regional hub.

Japan is working to reduce

fossil fuel use and promote hydrogen and ammonia as alternative fuels. Yokohama plans to build a terminal for ships to import hydrogen, officials said. Other facilities in Yokohama allow a ship that is idling at the port to be powered electronically instead of burning heavily polluting marine fuel oil.

Similar initiatives are being promoted in U.S. ports, Buttigieg said, adding that Japanese leadership in developing hydrogen as fuel is going to be “a big part of the future.”

The Biden administration is pushing to speed up the transition to renewable and less polluting energy sources. While attending G7 meetings in April in Sapporo, northern Japan, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm toured the world’s first and only liquefied hydrogen carrier, a ship that showcases Japanese efforts to transform heavily polluting coal into emissions-free hydrogen power.

Japan aims to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050, with a goal of becoming a “hydrogen society.” But its hydrogen industry is still in its initial stages, and still mostly reliant on hydrogen produced using fossil fuels.



# Nation

## Trump, other Republicans conjure familiar enemy in red-tagging Dems

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Lashing out after his arraignment on federal charges last week, Donald Trump took aim at President Joe Biden and Democrats with language that seemed to evoke another era: He was being persecuted, he said, by “Marxists” and “communists.”

Trump has used the labels since he first appeared on the political scene, but it lately has become an omnipresent attack line that also has been deployed by other Republicans. The rhetoric is both inaccurate and potentially dangerous because it attempts to demonize an entire party with a description that has long been associated with America’s enemies.

Experts who study political messaging say associating Democrats with Marxism only furthers the country’s polarization — and is simply wrong: Biden has promoted capitalism and Democratic lawmakers are not pushing to reshape American democracy into a communist system.

That hasn’t mattered to Trump and other Republicans, who for years have used hyperbolic references to the associated political ideologies to spark fears about Democrats and the dangers they supposedly pose.

Hours after pleading not guilty in federal court, Trump told a crowd of his supporters at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, that Biden, “together with a band of his closest thugs, misfits and Marxists, tried to destroy



Madelin Munilla, 67, who came to Miami as a child when her parents fled Fidel Castro's Cuba, holds up a sign comparing President Joe Biden to Castro and other Latin American leaders at a rally outside the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. U.S. Courthouse, Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Miami.

American democracy.”

He added, “If the communists get away with this, it won’t stop with me.”

He again hit on the Marxist theme days later during a telephone rally with Iowa voters. The comments came after numerous campaign emails and social posts in recent months in which Trump has claimed

that Biden’s America could soon become a “third world Marxist regime” or a “tyrannical Marxist nation.”

Other Republicans have piled on with similar messaging. Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene last week took to Twitter to lambast what she called the “CORRUPT AND WEAPONIZED COMMU-

NISTS DEMOCRAT CONTROLLED DOJ.” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump’s closest rival for the GOP presidential nomination, has argued the U.S. risks falling victim to “woke” ideology, which he has defined in interviews as a form of “cultural Marxism.”

Experts say there is a long history of U.S. politicians

calling opponents Marxist or communist without evidence — perhaps most infamously Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who led efforts to blacklist accused communists in the 1950s.

In a country that has historically positioned itself against Marxism, “red-baiting is as American as apple pie in political communications,” said Tanner Mirrlees, an associate professor at Ontario Tech University in Canada who has researched political discourse about “cultural Marxism.”

The attacks are carefully constructed to hit voters emotionally, said Steve Israel, a former U.S. congressman from New York who studied political messaging as chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

“Democrats tend to message to the part of the brain that is about reason and empirical evidence,” he said. “Republicans message to the gut.”

For some Hispanic Trump supporters who gathered outside the federal court-

house in Miami where the former president was arraigned, the charges evoked memories of political persecutions their family members had once escaped.

“This is what they do in Latin America,” said Madelin Munilla, 67, who came to Miami as a child when her parents fled Fidel Castro’s Cuba.

She carried a poster with a photo of Biden alongside Castro, Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro and Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega — leftist leaders whose jailing of opponents has driven immigration to south Florida for decades.

Unlike the U.S., which has a tradition of respect for the rule of law and constitutional separation of powers, the judiciary in many parts of Latin America lacks the same independence. In a region where corruption flourishes, poorly paid prosecutors and judges are routinely caught doing the bidding of powerful politicians seeking to settle scores or derail criminal investigations.

## 1 dead, nearly 2 dozen injured after tornadoes hit Mississippi

**LOUIN, Miss.** (AP)—Multiple tornadoes swept through Mississippi overnight, killing one and injuring nearly two dozen, officials said Monday.

State emergency workers were still working with counties to assess the damage from storms in which high temperatures and hail in some areas accompanied tornadoes. The death and injuries were reported by officials in eastern Mississippi’s Jasper County.

The small, rural town of Louin bore the brunt of the damage. Drone footage and photos showed wide expanses of debris-covered terrain, decimated homes and mangled trees. At least one person was lifted from the wreckage in a stretcher.

Standing in front of his damaged home on Monday, Lester Campbell told The Associated Press that his cousin, 67-year-old George Jean Hayes, is the person who died. Reached by phone Monday, Jones County Coroner Don Sumrall said Hayes was pronounced dead at 2:18 a.m. from “multisystem trauma.”

Campbell fell asleep in his recliner Sunday evening. He was awakened around midnight after the lights went out. After he walked to the kitchen to grab something from the refrigerator, the tornado struck.

“It happened so fast,” Campbell said. “It was like a train sound, a roar, roar, roar.”

He dropped to the floor and crawled to his bedroom closet, where his wife had already taken shelter. By the time he reached the closet, the tornado had passed.

Campbell said he heard calls for help across the street, where Hayes lived in a trailer home. He emerged from his home to find emergency workers carrying his cousin, with a bloodied forehead and leg, into an ambulance. She was conscious and talking when he saw her but died before reaching the hospital, he said.

Most of the people injured in Jasper County, including Hayes, were transported to the South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel between 2 and 3 a.m., said Becky Collins, a spokesperson for the facility. About 20 people had bruises and cuts. Most were in stable condition Monday morning.

Eric Carpenter, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Jackson, said an unseasonably strong jet stream blew through the area. A tornado emerged near Louin before traveling at least 7 miles (11 kilometers) south to Bay Springs.

## At least 6 teens shot after Milwaukee Juneteenth celebration ends

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—At least six teenagers were shot Monday afternoon around where Milwaukee’s Juneteenth celebration had just wrapped up, according to police and fire officials.

The shooting happened about 4:20 p.m. outside Greater Philadelphia Church of God in Christ, according to witnesses and a Facebook Live video taken by a bystander in the immediate aftermath of the shooting, according to local media outlets.

Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman said six teens were shot, including a 17-year-old who may have been a gunman himself and is in custody. Police were still seeking additional suspects who hadn’t yet been identified.

Police said the victims, four girls and two boys, ranged in age from 14-19.

Norman said the shooting may have stemmed from a fight among a number of girls and young women, but he didn’t know what sparked the dispute. The injuries of those wounded varied but did not appear life-threatening, the chief said.

“Milwaukee, what’s going on with our children?” Norman wondered aloud at a news conference. He noted that he has taken part in the city’s Juneteenth celebrations for eight years without any such bloody aftermath.

“Parents, guardians, elders, we need to engage in ensuring that this violence that our children are bringing these streets ceases. No handgun, no weapons of destruction, should be in the hands of our young ones.”

“This is a story that plays out too often, and it’s getting really

old. Really old,” Norman said.

The violence followed a bloody weekend of shootings across the United States.

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson stressed that Monday’s Juneteenth observance itself was a safe and growing event, calling the subsequent violence “totally, totally unacceptable.”

“We had thousands and thousands of people here celebrating and bringing themselves together and having a sense of community. That’s a powerful thing. That’s the true story about what this day is,” said Johnson, a Democrat.

A man who identified himself as T. Jenkins told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that a fight between two women preceded the shooting. A young man pulled out a gun and everyone scattered, Jenkins said. The man did some of the

shooting, he said.

Jenkins provided aid to a young woman with a neck wound. There was blood coming out of the left side of her neck, he said. “I applied pressure to her neck,” he said. “I tried to keep everyone calm around me.”

A Facebook Live video taken in the immediate aftermath of the shooting shows at least two young people with gunshot wounds being treated by paramedics on the pavement.

The person who filmed the Facebook Live said in the video that a teenage girl or young woman had suffered a gunshot wound to the neck. The Facebook user tried to comfort her sobbing friend, who was trying to contact her mother. Only about 20 minutes after the festival had officially ended, hundreds of people were still walking along the street.



# Asia

## Biden is ready to fete India’s leader

» Looks past Modi’s human rights record, ties to Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is, on many counts, a curious choice for President Joe Biden to honor with a state visit. Since Russia’s Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine 16 months ago, India has boosted its economy by purchasing increasing quantities of cheap Russian oil. Human rights groups and political opponents have accused Modi of stifling dissent and introducing divisive policies that discriminate against Muslims and other minorities. And India’s foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, has espoused a worldview in which there are no allies or friends, only “frenemies.” But Biden, who will welcome Modi to the White House on Thursday for a state visit, has made clear he sees U.S. ties to India — the world’s biggest democracy and one of its fastest growing economies — as a defining relationship. New Delhi, as Biden sees it, will be

essential to addressing some of the most difficult global challenges in coming years, including climate change, disruptions related to artificial intelligence, and China’s growing power in the Indo-Pacific. “Now, we know that India and the United States are big, complicated countries,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the U.S.-India Business Council in Washington ahead of Modi’s visit. “We certainly have work to do to advance transparency, to promote market access, to strengthen our democracies, to unleash the full potential of our people. But the trajectory of this partnership is unmistakable, and it is filled with promise.” Much is at stake for both sides in the Indian leader’s three-day visit to the U.S., which begins Wednesday with a stop in New York, where Modi will lead an international yoga day event at the United Nations. Biden wants to bring India closer to the United States as the administration tilts its foreign policy toward Asia and looks to build partnerships in the region in the face of an ascendant China. Modi, for his part, is trying to usher in a more prosperous era

for his nation of 1.4 billion, delivering on a promise he made when he swept into office more than nine years ago. The Indian prime minister hopes to strengthen U.S.-India economic and military ties. He also has his own worries about Chinese military activities, along the Himalayan border and in the Indian Ocean. India has been locked in a long-running standoff with China in the rugged mountainous area of Ladakh, where each side has stationed tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets. “As China has risen, India and the U.S. both need one another and the U.S. needs more partners in the Indo-Pacific,” said Jitendra Nath Misra, a professor of diplomatic practice at the O.P. Jindal Global University and a former Indian ambassador. “They can’t do it alone anymore because China is catching up with the U.S., and the Chinese economy is significantly larger than India’s. So, there is a congruence of geopolitical interests here.” There are plenty of signs that the relationship already has taken a leap forward.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### N. Korea launches 2 ballistic missiles toward sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters on Thursday, its neighbors said, in a resumption of weapons tests to protest just-ended South Korean-U.S. live-fire drills that it viewed as an invasion rehearsal. The launches are the first by North Korea since it failed to put its first spy satellite into orbit in late May. South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were launched from North Korea’s capital region and traveled about 780 kilometers (480 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. It called the launches “a grave provocation” and said South Korea’s military will maintain a firm readiness in close coordination with the United States. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the missiles landed inside Japan’s exclusive economic zone. He called the launches a “violent action” that threatened international peace and safety.

#### Himalayan glaciers could lose 80% of volume if global warming not controlled

BENGALURU, India (AP)—Glaciers are melting

at unprecedented rates across the Hindu Kush Himalayan mountain ranges and could lose up to 80% of their current volume this century if greenhouse gas emissions aren’t sharply reduced, according to a new report. The report Tuesday from Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development warned that flash floods and avalanches would grow more likely in coming years, and that the availability of fresh water would be affected for nearly 2 billion people who live downstream of 12 rivers that originate in the mountains. Ice and snow in the Hindu Kush Himalayan ranges is an important source of water for those rivers, which flow through 16 countries in Asia and provide fresh water to 240 million people in the mountains and another 1.65 billion downstream. “The people living in these mountains who have contributed next to nothing to global warming are at high risk due to climate change,” said Amina Maharjan, a migration specialist and one of the report’s authors. “Current adaptation efforts are wholly insufficient, and we are extremely concerned that without greater support, these communities will be unable to cope.” Various earlier reports have found

that the cryosphere — regions on Earth covered by snow and ice — are among the worst affected by climate change. Recent research found that Mount Everest’s glaciers, for example, have lost 2,000 years of ice in just the past 30 years.

# World

## Macron calls on Europe to develop air defense systems



The Aermacchi M-346 is on display during the Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, north of Paris, France, Monday, June 19, 2023.

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron called on European nations Monday to seek more independence on airspace defense and advocated against relying too much on the U.S., a long-divisive issue that takes on new urgency because of Russia’s war in Ukraine. Macron made his case for

Europeans building their own airspace protection strategy in the closing speech of a conference in Paris gathering defense ministers and other representatives of 20 European countries. The talks included anti-drone combat and ballistic missile defense, French organizers said, noting that Moscow’s full-scale invasion

of Ukraine has shown the importance and effectiveness of such equipment. Nuclear weapons deterrence was also on the agenda. “We need to know what the threat situation is ... And then, what are we, Europeans, able to produce? And what do we then need to buy?” Macron said.

## UN complains Russia blocks aid workers from Ukraine dam collapse

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The Kremlin’s spokesman said Monday that U.N. aid workers who want to visit areas ravaged by the recent Kakhovka dam collapse in southern Ukraine can’t go there because fighting in the war makes it unsafe.

The United Nations rebuked Moscow on Sunday for allegedly denying aid workers access to Russian-occupied areas where residents are stranded amid “devastating destruction.” The U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine,

Denise Brown, said in a statement that her staff were engaging with both Kyiv and Moscow, which control different parts of the area, in a bid to reach civilians in need. They face a shortage of drinking water and food and a lack of power.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

† Bobby Nacario Sanje

Born on April 8, 1966  
Called to Eternal Life on June 13, 2023

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Norberto Calderon Amil

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: Lilia Nacario Sanje  
Common Law Wife: Maria Salvacion D. Olicia  
Children: Robby Gaile Sanje  
Ydrane Sanje  
Ysharae Sanje

Brothers and Sister:

Norlie Amil Burce and Family  
Nelia Amil Santos and Family  
Philip Amil Sanje and Family

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, and his Zumba Family (Zumba Fitness & Motion).

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023. His remains will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to San Antonio Church at 7:30 a.m. followed by Responso Service. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 a.m.

Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ghillisow, and Maraming Salamat.

Maria Salvacion Olicia and Family



# Good Housekeeping

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE  
Tribune News Service

## SERENITY AND STYLE

### Decorating your home with blue and green

I’ve been witnessing this stunning duo grace the design tables quite frequently as of late, and I must confess, I’m absolutely loving it. The interest and enthusiasm from our customers and talented designers have ignited a creative spark within me, compelling me to delve deeper into this current trend.

Join me on this exciting journey as we uncover the beauty and magic that blue and green bring to our living spaces. Let’s dive in and discover how this dynamic color pairing can transform your home into a haven of style, serenity, and timeless allure.

Step into the enchanting world of blue and green, where timeless elegance meets vibrant allure. At our shop, we’ve been showcasing the captivating combination of these hues, and we’re thrilled to see the trend sweeping across the design world.

One of our star pieces that hit the floor this past spring is a stunning fern green sofa, exuding a sense of nature’s embrace while subtly glam with its low profile, channel back and vintage velvet fabric. Against the backdrop of a fresh blue and white chinoiserie art piece, this sofa becomes the focal point, commanding attention. To complete the ensemble, we’ve added accompanying blue chairs that harmonize effortlessly with the art and sofa, creating a symphony of color. This combination is a celebration of balance and creativity, where the cool tranquility of blue and the lush vibrancy of green dance in perfect harmony.

The trend is exploding as more and more individuals embrace the beauty and serenity this duo brings to their homes. Don’t miss the opportunity to infuse your space with this captivating trend, where blue and green merge to create a haven of style and peacefulness.

In the heart of the Mullberry Drive room, a stunning emerald green velvet sectional takes center stage, beckoning you to sink into its sumptuous comfort. Not only does this luxurious piece boast a rich texture, but it is also crafted with a



HANDOUT/TNS

This rich velvet green sofa is the star of the Mullberry Drive room. Blue and white accessories make for a chic and subdued pairing to this green sofa.

performance fabric, making it both stylish and practical. The sleek and attractive design of the sectional exudes personality, as if it belongs in a moody lounge within a vibrant nightlife scene.

Despite its role as a workhorse piece of furniture, don’t be afraid to dress it up. The use of color in such a prominent and eye-catching piece can truly make a standout statement. Allow the emerald green to command attention and infuse the room with its opulence. Pair it with accessories and accents that accentuate its richness, such as metallics or deep jewel tones. Embrace the

boldness of this majestic sectional, as it transforms your space into a haven of style and sophistication, fit for both everyday lounging and glamorous entertaining. Let this standout piece be the cornerstone of your decor, proving that functionality and elegance can coexist harmoniously.

A few months ago we asked our designers to create flatlays for inspiration, and we even found these tones popping up there as well. In her design, Anne expertly balances shades of blue and green, layering different tones and patterns to add depth and visual interest. The result is a visually stunning flatlay that captures the essence of serenity and natural beauty, offering inspiration for creating a tranquil and stylish space.

This fresh palette has me dreaming of a day spent in a lush, green garden under the clear blue skies. When creating her flatlay design, Anne was inspired by a rug sample we had just received at the shop, and she built her design around the dark blues and golds found in the piles. Allowing the details of the space to do the talking, she kept the larger pieces of furniture on the more neutral side. A cream sofa, soft blue herringbone chairs, and a caramel leather ottoman were imagined as ruling the room. Building on that soft foundation, Anne



HANDOUT/TNS

A visually captivating flatlay design captures the essence of a harmonious green and blue color palette.

added color and pattern through the pillow selections and window panel fabric choices.

Embrace the freshness of a new color palette as we explore the art of decorating your home using blue and green. This vibrant combination offers a fresh spin on the classic blue and white look, infusing your space with a renewed sense of energy and modernity. Even the most sophisticated designs take on a refreshed appearance when adorned with this captivating col-

orway. While it doesn’t necessarily resemble traditional chinoiserie, the versatility of this trend allows it to seamlessly adapt to various design styles. Whether your aesthetic leans towards traditional, transitional, or modern, the blue and green palette can be effortlessly incorporated, breathing new life into your decor.

So, get ready to embark on a creative journey where this dynamic duo takes center stage, rejuvenating your home with a vibrant and timeless appeal.



HANDOUT/TNS

A stunning fern green sofa is paired with two exquisite blue chairs, creating a captivating and inviting seating arrangement.



# Life & Style

## Voters back world heritage status for Bavarian palaces

**BERLIN (AP)**—Voters in the municipality where Neuschwanstein Castle is located have voted to approve a bid for UNESCO World Heritage status for the 19th century palaces built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria, some of which are among Germany's most popular tourist attractions.

In a referendum on Sunday, some 56% of voters who turned out in the Schwangau municipality

gave their approval to the bid, German news agency dpa reported. Officials plan to submit the bid officially to UNESCO early next year, with the U.N. body's World Heritage Committee expected to make a decision in mid-2025.

German officials hope to win World Heritage status for four of Ludwig's creations dotted across southern Bavaria. They are Linderhof Palace;

Herrenchiemsee Palace, modeled on France's Versailles and located on an island in a lake; Neuschwanstein Castle, a monument to medieval culture with inspiration from Richard Wagner; and the King's House on Schachen, by far the least-known of the quartet.

Neuschwanstein and Herrenchiemsee weren't completed by the time Ludwig, who had accumulated massive debts, died in 1886.



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Castle Neuschwanstein, a 19th century creation by Bavaria's fairy tale king Ludwig II and world renowned tourist attraction, is pictured in Hohenschwangau near Füssen, southern Germany, on May 9, 2011.

## Rapper Big Pokey dies after collapsing at show

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Milton Powell, a Houston rapper who performed under the name Big Pokey and is credited with elevating the city's hip-hop scene, died after collapsing during a show in Texas, a local official said Monday.

Tom Gillam III, a justice of the peace in Jefferson County, where Powell was performing when he collapsed Sunday,

said an autopsy to determine the cause of death was pending. He said Powell was 48.

Powell was a member of Houston's rap collective Screwed Up Click that was formed by the late DJ Screw. Powell was performing at a bar in Beaumont called Pour09, whose owner, Min Dai, told the Houston Chronicle that police were on onsite and able to provide

medical help "instantly" before emergency responders rushed the rapper to a hospital.

A statement on Powell's official Instagram page said he was "well loved by his family, friends, and his loyal fans."

Tributes from other artists poured in across social media.

Rapper Bun B called Powell "one of the most naturally talented artists" in Houston.

## Author Salman Rushdie awarded prestigious German prize for his literary work and resolve

**BERLIN (AP)**—Writer Salman Rushdie has been awarded a prestigious German prize for his literary work and for his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger, the prize organizers said Monday.

The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade said the British-American author would receive the award in Frankfurt on Oct. 22.

Rushdie's writing "combines narrative vision with constant literary innovation, humor and wisdom," the jury said. "He describes the force with which violent regimes destroy whole societies, but also the indestructibility of the individual's spirit of resistance."

Last August, Rushdie was stabbed repeatedly while on stage at a literary festival in

New York state.

"Despite massive physical and psychological consequences that he is still wrestling with, he continues to write—in an imaginative and deeply human way," the German jury wrote. "We are honoring Salman Rushdie for his resolve, his positive attitude to life and for the fact that he enriches the world with his pleasure in narrating."

## Thrown phone hits Bebe Rexha in the face on stage

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pop star Bebe Rexha was hit in the face and injured by a cellphone hurled from the audience at a hometown show in New York City Sunday night, and a man was arrested, police said.

The Grammy-nominated, multiplatinum-selling singer-songwriter was taken to a hospital after the phone hit her, police said. A bruise and a bandage were visible above her left eye in social media posts she made Monday.

"I'm good, yeah, I'm feelin' alright," she sang in a TikTok video, taking a line from "I'm Good (Blue)," her recent hit with DJ David Guetta.

Rexha, 33, was on stage at Pier 17, a rooftop venue in Manhattan, when the phone was thrown, police said. Video posted on social media showed the phone ricocheting off the artist's head, and then Rexha grabbing her face and sinking to her knees.

Nicolas Malvagna, 27, of New Jersey, was released without bail after being arraigned Monday on assault, aggravated harassment and other charges. Each is either a misdemeanor or a violation.

According to a court complaint, Malvagna told a third party he tried to hit Rexha with the phone at the end of

the show because he thought "it would be funny."

A message seeking comment was sent to his attorney.

A three-time Grammy nominee, Rexha is known for such hits as "I'm Good (Blue)," "Meant to Be," featuring country's Florida Georgia Line, and "I Got You." Raised in New York, she was a songwriter for other artists before becoming a solo star.

"What I'm learning is that not everybody is going to connect with you and understand you, and that's OK," she told The Associated Press in April, shortly before the release of her latest album, "Bebe."

## Friend isn't shy about lending a helping hand

**DEAR ABBY:** I need advice regarding my husband's friend and how I should handle a delicate situation. My husband has a woman friend. (She has a boyfriend.) They recently helped us move, which we really appreciate. She likes to make sexual jokes, and my husband does, too. I'm not a prude, but I don't enjoy the kind of flirty vibe she puts out.

When they were helping us move, we went out for meals. She and I had privately shared that my husband and her boyfriend would sometimes forget to zip up after using the bathroom. Well, while we were walking to the car, she zipped up my husband's zipper for him! I laughed it off, but it kind of caught me off guard. Later, my husband told me he thought it was weird, and so do I.

Should I tell her it was crossing a line? She seems pretty clueless, but I don't want it to happen again.

AWKWARD IN THE WEST

**DEAR AWKWARD:** Your husband's friend appears to have a difficult time understanding boundaries. Because it made your husband uncomfortable, HE should tell her that what she did was weird and, if he forgets to zip up in the future, she should TELL him his zipper is open so he can fix it himself.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently started a relationship with "Chase," a man I've known for a year. We don't have time to see each other during the week. I have two jobs; he has one. He works

Monday through Saturday. He's also in a sports league that gets together for practice and games on Sundays.

The problem is, every weekend for the past six weeks he's said he'd try to come see me, but by the end of the weekend, something always happened, so he didn't. To be brutally honest, I've seen "friends with benefits" guys every week for years more often than I've seen Chase.

I don't like having to wait this long to see him, so I recently suggested going back to being just friends. What's the point in being in a relationship with someone I rarely see? I don't think I should continue waiting. Do you agree?

IMPATIENT IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR IMPATIENT:** If Chase was truly motivated to see you more than occasionally, he would make the time. You have my permission to quit waiting for him. And, as you move forward (and on), ASSUME that you have been "just friends" from the time he stopped showing up when you were available.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm Spanish, and my husband is Indian. I have a daughter from a previous relationship, and I also share a baby boy with him. Most of the time, he speaks to the baby in Telugu, which is fine with me.

I would love for my baby boy to learn the three languages—English, Spanish and Telugu—but every time I speak with my daughter in Spanish, my husband thinks we're talking about

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

him and gets mad, which I think is unfair, as I can't prohibit my daughter from speaking her language. Could you please give me some advice?

TRILINGUAL IN THE EAST

**DEAR TRILINGUAL:** I'm sorry you didn't mention how old your daughter is. She should practice her English as well as her Spanish. Point out that her stepfather feels excluded when she speaks extensively to you in Spanish, which leaves him out of the conversation, and to please be more sensitive to his feelings.

■■■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis





# Arraez goes 5 for 5 to lift batting average to .400 as Marlins blank Blue Jays

**M I A M I** (AP)—Luis Arraez went 5 for 5 again to raise his batting average to .400, and Jorge Soler homered as the streaking Miami Marlins routed the Toronto Blue Jays 11-0 on Monday night.

Jon Berti had three hits and Jesús Sánchez doubled twice for the Marlins, who won their fifth straight game and finished with 19 hits—their most since getting 21 on June 1 last year in the opener of a doubleheader at Colorado. Miami improved to a season-best 11 games over .500 at 42-31.

“This is fun because we’re winning and everybody gets hits,” Arraez said. “I’m excited for this team. When we get to the clubhouse, we are a family.”

It was the second time in his past three games that Arraez went 5 for 5, following an 0-for-15 slide that dropped his average to .378. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he became the fourth major leaguer since 1900 to have three five-hit games in a calendar month, joining three Hall of Famers: George Sisler (August 1921), Ty Cobb (July 1922) and Dave Winfield (June 1984).

“Anytime you’re mentioned with Ty Cobb, that’s pretty special,” Marlins manager Skip Schumaker said. “The way he’s doing it, up the middle, when we need it. A blowout game or non-blowout game. It’s special.”

Arraez has 102 hits in 67 games played, the second-fastest player to 100 in Marlins history. Dee Strange-Gordon reached the century mark in 65 games in 2015.

Arraez’s fifth single, a line drive to left field with the base loaded, scored two and highlighted a five-run seventh. The crowd of 12,226 gave Arraez a standing ovation before the at-bat and chanted “Louie! Louie! Louie!” and “MVP! MVP! MVP!” once he reached first base.

“My hair stood up. I had to step away and take a deep breath,” Arraez said. “I thank the fans who have come to support us and hopefully they will continue to do so.”

No big league player has batted .400 for a full season since Ted Williams hit .406 for the Boston Red Sox in 1941.

Bo Bichette had two hits for the Blue Jays, shut out for the first time this season. Bichette also reached 100 hits with his leadoff single in the ninth.

Soler’s two-run homer and Garrett Cooper’s RBI single in the third put Miami ahead 3-0. Soler drove a breaking pitch from starter José Berrios to left-center for his 21st homer.

The Marlins padded their lead on Soler’s sacrifice fly



Miami Marlins' Luis Arraez hits a single during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Monday, June 19, 2023, in Miami.

and Sánchez’s RBI groundout in the fourth.

With a huge lead, Schumaker pinch-hit for Arraez with rookie Jacob Amaya in the eighth. Amaya singled and drove in Miami’s final run.

“Obviously, 19 hits and 11 runs is a lot, but we’re going to enjoy this one tonight and be back ready again to hopefully put together another good day at the plate (Tuesday),” Berti said.

Starting pitcher Bryan Hoeing threw four scoreless innings in a bullpen game for Miami. Hoeing allowed three hits and struck out a career-high five.

Huascar Brazobán (1-1) followed and got the next six outs. He gave up one single.

Berrios (7-5) was lifted after the fourth. The right-hander permitted five runs and eight hits in his shortest outing of the season. He walked one and struck out four.

“They made him work. He threw a lot of pitches,” Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. “The execution just wasn’t quite there, either with the fastball or breaking ball. Good lineup and they’re playing well right now.”

## GIANTS 7, PADRES 4, 10 INNINGS

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski splashed a game-ending three-run homer into McCovey Cove in the 10th inning, and San Francisco rallied past San Diego for its season-best eighth straight victory.

Yastrzemski also connected in the sixth, giving him five career multi-homer games and two against San Diego. It was his fourth walk-off homer in the majors and second versus the Padres.

Camilo Doval (2-2) struck out Manny Machado for the first out of the 10th and got through it unscathed for the win.

Yastrzemski also scored with a headfirst dive on Patrick Bailey’s tying sacrifice fly in a two-run ninth.

Juan Soto homered twice and Ha-Seong Kim hit a two-run single but San Diego blew a 4-0 lead. Ray Kerr (0-1) took the loss.

David Villar also went deep for the Giants.

## RANGERS 5, WHITE SOX 2

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Rookie Josh Jung hit his 15th home run, Jonah Heim had a late two-run single and Texas beat Chicago, which lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Andrew Heaney (5-4) pitched neatly into the sixth after struggling in three previous starts, and the Rangers opened the three-game series on a winning note after taking two of three from the Blue Jays. Heaney gave up two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. Will Smith worked the ninth for his 13th save in 14 chances.

Nathaniel Lowe singled and scored in the fourth against Tanner Banks (0-2) to make it 3-0. Banks allowed three runs and five hits in 3 2/3 innings in his first big league start as the White Sox used him as the opener in a bullpen game.

## DIAMONDBACKS 9, BREWERS 1

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Alek Thomas homered during Arizona’s six-run first inning against Corbin Burnes, Merrill Kelly continued his road dominance and the Diamondbacks rolled to victory

over Milwaukee.

Kelly (9-3) moved into the NL lead for wins by striking out seven and allowing just three hits and one run in seven innings. Kelly has produced five consecutive quality starts.

After getting called up from Triple-A Reno earlier in the day, Thomas went 2 for 4 and scored twice. His two-run homer into the second deck of the right-field seats capped the Diamondbacks’ first-inning outburst against Burnes, the 2021 NL Cy Young Award winner.

Burnes (5-5) ended a string of four straight quality starts by allowing seven runs — matching his career high — in five innings. He struck out three and walked two.

## METS 11, ASTROS 1

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Francisco Lindor homered and drove in five runs, and Max Scherzer pitched eight fantastic innings for his longest outing with New York in their victory over a skidding Houston.

Scherzer (6-2) gave up just four hits and struck out eight to bounce back from consecutive rough starts against the Braves and Yankees.

Daniel Vogelbach, who tied a season high with three RBIs, homered off rookie Hunter Brown (6-4) to start the third. Brown allowed seven hits and a career-high six runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Yainer Diaz homered for the second time in three games, but the Astros couldn’t do much else as they lost their season-high fifth straight. Houston has scored just one run in three of its last five games as the team struggles to deal with an injury to star slugger Yordan Alvarez

## REDS 5, ROCKIES 4

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Joey Votto homered and hit a go-ahead, two-run single in his return to the Reds’ lineup after a 10-month absence that followed surgery, helping Cincinnati extend its longest winning streak in a decade and move into first place in NL Central for the first time since the opening week of the season.

Votto drove a first-pitch, belt-high fastball from Austin Gomber (4-7) about a dozen rows into the right-field seats for a 3-1 lead in the fifth. After circling the bases on his 343rd home run, Votto emerged from the Reds dugout for a curtain call, wearing the celebratory Viking helmet and cape that have followed Cincinnati long balls this season. He had not homered since last Aug. 6 against Milwaukee’s Jake McGee.

Alex Young (1-0) walked Mike Moustakas with the bases loaded in the sixth, giving Colorado a 4-3 lead, then retired Jurickson Proffar on an inning-ending grounder. Alexis Diaz got his 19th save in 20 chances, striking out Randal Grichuk and Ryan McMahon, then retiring Elias Díaz on a game-ending groundout.

## RED SOX 9, TWINS 3

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Alex Verdugo tripled and drove in four runs, James Paxton pitched 6 1/3 effective innings and Boston beat Minnesota for their fifth straight win.

Triston Casas hit a two-run homer and Jarren Duran added three doubles for Boston, which has outscored opponents 40-14 during the win streak.

Paxton (3-1) gave up three hits and a walk while striking out seven. Twins catcher Christian Vázquez hit a three-run homer against his former team, his first in 48 games in his first season in Minnesota.

Pablo López (3-4) allowed five runs — four earned — in 5 2/3 innings for Minnesota, which has lost four of five but remains two games ahead of Cleveland in the American League Central despite falling under .500 for the second time this season.

## CUBS 8, PIRATES 0

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Drew Smyly gave up three hits in five innings, Mike Tauchman hit a two-run single during a brief downpour and Chicago surged past Pittsburgh.

Smyly (7-4) worked around five walks to win his second straight start following a three-game losing

streak. Tauchman finished with three hits and drove in three runs. Dansby Swanson added two hits as Chicago spoiled the major-league debut of highly touted Pirates prospect Henry Davis.

Oswaldo Bido (0-1) pitched well in his second major-league start save for a bumpy second inning that coincided with a short deluge that the teams played through even as the fans in the stands scrambled for cover.

Bido, who impressed in his debut last week against the Cubs, settled down after the skies cleared. Bido retired 12 of 13 batters in one stretch and struck out seven against two walks in six innings to boost his chances of sticking around a while longer.

## TIGERS 6, ROYALS 4

**DETROIT** (AP)—Kerry Carpenter hit a three-run homer in a five-run, seventh inning that lifted Detroit over Kansas and sent the Royals to their 12th loss in 13 games.

Miguel Cabrera singled and Jonathan Schoop doubled, chasing Royals starter Jordan Lyles in the seventh. Jake Rogers hit a two-run single off Taylor Clarke (1-1) that cut the deficit to 4-3, and Carpenter hit a two-out line drive down the right-field line for his sixth homer this season.

Tyler Alexander (2-1) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings with four strikeouts. Alex Lange pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances.

## CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 6

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Brendan Donovan and Paul Goldschmidt hit back-to-back homers in the fifth inning, and St. Louis rallied from an early deficit to beat Washington in a Juneteenth matinee.

Donovan’s three-run shot to right-center off Josiah Gray (4-6) tied the game 5-all, and Goldschmidt put the Cardinals ahead to stay when he lined a hanging curveball from Gray over the wall in left. Gray allowed a season-worst six runs in five innings.

Jack Flaherty (4-5) gave up six runs for the second consecutive start but won for the first time since May 15.

Génesis Cabrera got the final two outs in the seventh, Giovanny Gallegos worked the eighth and Jordan Hicks got three outs for his third save in three days while a big contingent of Cardinals fans stood and cheered behind their dugout.



# New GM says Warriors committed to keeping Draymond Green



**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—The Golden State Warriors want to keep Draymond Green, yet the team is prepared for him to formally decline his \$27.5 million player option for the final year of his contract next season and become an unrestricted free agent seeking a long-term deal.

The Athletic reported Monday that Green would opt out. Green, who said in April he wants to retire with Golden State, would have to notify the Warriors of his decision by June 30.

"I saw the report, too. Until we get the paperwork and the filing we can't really comment or say much," new general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. said Monday at his introductory news conference. "I will say it, I think Steve (Kerr) has said it, I'll reiterate, we really want Draymond back. What he means to this organization and this team in terms of trying to win at the highest level, we feel like we have to have him. So that's very important."

Kerr has applauded Green's fiery, emotional play. The sea-



Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green celebrates after scoring against the Dallas Mavericks during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals in San Francisco, Thursday, May 26, 2022. AP

son began with Green punching Jordan Poole at practice during training camp then taking a brief leave of absence from the team.

This spring, Green served a one-game suspension during the Warriors' 114-97 Game 3

victory in the first round of the playoffs that Golden State won in seven games. He vowed afterward not to change.

"Draymond won't be moved by no Draymond rules," he said. "I will continue to play the game how I play

the game, operate how I operate, be exactly who I am, because that leads to winning."

In the fourth quarter of the Kings' 114-106 Game 2 win, Green stepped on the chest of Sacramento center Domantas Sabonis after Stephen Curry grabbed a defensive rebound.

In 2016, Green was suspended for a crucial Game 5 loss to LeBron James and the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals after accumulating too many flagrant fouls in the playoffs that season. The Warriors wound up losing in seven.

Dunleavy and owner Joe Lacob know there's much to do better this summer with the expectations that the Warriors will contend for another championship next season.

And, they hope, with Green a part of that core of players along with Curry and Klay Thompson that has won four titles together.

"Look, he's been a spectacular player for us. We would not have these championships without his involvement, no question," Lacob said of Green.

"I think everyone understands that in this room. He's meant a lot to this franchise. He's a bit of a controversial player perhaps in some corners around the league, certain things that have happened over the years. He knows that. We know that. But the good overwhelms the bad is what I would say.

"... He's meant a lot. I think if he does come back that he will be very important to our success certainly going forward in the next few years."

Dunleavy, promoted from assistant GM to replace Bob Myers, is optimistic of keeping the roster together—Poole and the younger players, too.

Curry, Green and Thompson are still competing at an elite level.

"That's our hope. We love those guys and value them. I think there is a way to do it. That's something we'll have to work through. It certainly is possible," Dunleavy said. "The big thing is those guys are still playing at a high level. Steph conservatively is one of the top five players in the league. Draymond just had an incredible year. Essentially first team all defense. We're biased. One of the premiere defenders in the league. Klay has really returned well from his Achilles injury and his knee. Those guys are playing well at an older age."

## Suns continue whirlwind of change under new owner Mat Ishbia

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Mat Ishbia's five-month tenure as the new owner of the Phoenix Suns has produced a whirlwind of change.

Nobody seems completely safe—not even 12-time All-Star point guard Chris Paul—as the Michigan native continues his quest to deliver Phoenix its first NBA title.

The aggressive owner oversaw his latest big move Sunday, when the Suns put together the framework for a trade that would send Paul, Landry Shamet and other compensation to the Washington Wizards in exchange for three-time All-Star Bradley Beal.

Paul—making an appearance on ABC's 'Good Morning America' on Monday morning to promote his new book—seemed just as shocked by the development as everyone else.

"I was surprised, too," Paul said. "I found out on the plane, yesterday, flying here for this. In this league, anything can happen, so you just figure out what's next."

Paul told the New York Times that he learned about the trade via text from his 14-year-old son. He also said that he believed former Detroit Pistons point guard Isiah Thomas, who is friends with Ishbia, had a role in the deal. Ishbia has said that Thomas has no official role with the franchise.

"It's just—it's tough," Paul said. "Seriously, it is part of the business, and what you realize is that no one owes you anything. No matter how you are

with them or what you do, you realize that in this business, nobody owes you anything, as it should be.

"But when it comes through and my son texted me, I realize that, you know, Mat and Isiah, I guess, just wanted to go in a different direction."

Paul came to the desert in 2020, bringing instant credibility to the Suns, who had languished near the bottom of the standings for the better part of a decade. The point guard formed a formidable backcourt with Devin Booker, and the Suns came agonizingly close to a championship, winning the first two games of the NBA Finals against the Milwaukee Bucks in 2021 before losing the next four.

The Suns were also good in the past two regular seasons, but suffered back-to-back embarrassing playoff exits on their home floor.

That was apparently enough for Ishbia to decide that wholesale changes needed to be made.

Ishbia—who took over control of the team from the embattled Robert Sarver in February—hasn't been shy about making big moves, even before their latest playoff exit. The Suns added 13-time All-Star Kevin Durant in a blockbuster trade deadline deal that sent Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson and a bevy of first-round picks to the Brooklyn Nets.

The bold move failed to produce a championship, so

Ishbia continued his overhaul.

The Suns recently fired coach Monty Williams, who was the NBA's Coach of the Year in 2022, and brought in Frank Vogel, who led the Lakers to a title in the Florida bubble in 2020. Now the team is moving on from the 38-year-old Paul and bringing in Beal, who has averaged more than 22 points per game over his 11-year career.

More changes could be on the horizon.

The Suns now have a stellar nucleus of Booker, Durant, Beal and Deandre Ayton, but not much help around them. The foursome will make about \$150 million next season and the Suns will have to be creative as they try to add quality role players.

Another option would be trading Ayton, the No. 1 overall pick in 2018 who has had five up-and-down seasons with the franchise.

There doesn't seem to be a ton of obvious suitors for an Ayton deal, particularly after the 6-foot-11 center had an underwhelming performance in this year's playoffs.

But with Ishbia helping pull the strings these days, nothing seems impossible. The former Michigan State walk-on basketball player—who was part of the Spartans' championship team in 2000—has made it clear no one in the organization is sacred as he pushes for a title.

"I want to think big," Ishbia said back in February.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Wembanyama arrives in US from France ahead of NBA Draft

Victor Wembanyama has arrived in the U.S. for the NBA draft. The plane from France carrying Wembanyama—who almost certainly will be taken by the San Antonio Spurs with the No. 1 pick in Thursday's draft—arrived at Newark International Airport outside of New York City on Monday. And even before becoming an NBA star, he got his first official taste of NBA stardom. Some fans knew what flight he was on and when the plane was landing, and many were waiting. Wembanyama cheerfully signed autographs, scrawling his name onto basketballs and Spurs jerseys—some even with his name already on the back—before making his way into a waiting vehicle. "I don't know how they knew what flight I was on, but it's fun," Wembanyama said in a video distributed on the NBA's social media channels as he walked through the New Jersey airport, ducking his head to avoid some of the signage bolted to the terminal's ceiling. "It's different, seeing that you can have such impact on people." It's the start of a hectic few days for the 19-year-old French phenom who long has been considered a generational prospect the likes of which hasn't been seen since LeBron James entered the league in 2003. Wembanyama is expected to appear at a pre-draft media availability on Wednesday, then has the actual draft Thursday and likely will be in San Antonio sometime Friday. The rest of his summer won't exactly be slow, either. Wembanyama already has been announced as one of the expected participants in the inaugural NBA Con in Las Vegas coinciding with the start of Summer League there from July 7-9, and he has said he wants to play for France in the Basketball World Cup that will take place in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan starting in late August and running through Sept. 10. (AP)

### 3-time Sixth Man award winner Lou Williams announces retirement

ATLANTA (AP)—Lou

Williams announced his retirement from the NBA on Sunday, ending a career after winning the league's Sixth Man award three times and scoring more points off the bench than anyone in history. Williams played for six teams—Philadelphia, Toronto, the Los Angeles Lakers, Houston, the Los Angeles Clippers and Atlanta. He last played in the 2021-22 season with the Hawks. Out of 1,123 regular-season games played over 17 seasons, Williams came off the bench in 1,001. He scored 13,396 points off the bench, which is 2,117 more than Jamal Crawford and 2,249 more than Dell Curry. Williams and Crawford are the only three-time recipients of the Sixth Man award in league history. Williams was the 45th pick in the 2005 NBA draft. Out of the 60 players taken that year, only Chris Paul scored more points in the NBA than Williams—who went straight to the league out of high school. He finishes his career with 15,593 points, 131st in NBA history.



By **LEIGH GASES**  
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REPORTER



The Cardinals are still undefeated and on top of the standings, while the Falcons are in second place after their games last Tuesday and Friday in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Cardinals gave the SPC Survivors a beating that they could not recover from, 15-9, last Tuesday and the Falcons soared above the CK Bears, 9-4, last Friday.

The Survivors did have a head start against the Cardinals after seven runs by the second inning, but they couldn't hold it long enough when the Cardinals' offense caught fire in the fourth inning.

It was a run-fest for the Survivors in the second inning with a lead-off walk by JJ. Takano, followed by a base hit by Trevon Lieto. Two more batters walked and was capped by a single from J-Boy Mendiola.

The rest of the innings though, the Survivors were shut down by Cardinals pitching as they only put up two more runs in the third and sixth inning.

The Cardinals—although they had a slow start and were down by three runs in the third inning—crushed the fourth inning with back-to-back base hits and as they capitalized on the Survivors' fielding errors. The Cardinals' Brian Camacho had a base-clearing double and by the time the third out regis-

## Cardinals, Falcons lead SBL standings



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Falcons' Giovanni Mira gets a big lead off first base tries to get a read from Blue Jays pitcher during their game in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Cardinals' Eli Aughenbaugh reaches home plate safely during their game against the D-9er's in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



### CHINESE

From Page 20

to make it a close game.

However, Hsu and Lin prevailed and ceased Hobara and Suizu's run for a third set when Hsu and Lin won by just 3 points, 21-18.

In the mixed pairs finals, USA's Presley Smith and Alison Lee challenged Chinese-

tered, seven runs were on the board as the Cardinals took the lead, 12-8.

The Cardinals scored two more runs in the fifth as K.J. Villagomez and Ton Tenorio rounded the bases, and one more run in the last inning from a single by Nate Camacho.

In the Falcons' game against the Bears, the Falcons struck first for a five-run third inning.

First, J.D. Magofna was hit by a pitch and moved to scoring position after a single by J.J. Lifofoi, who were then brought in by M.J. Aldan.

Ian Norita walked in the next at-bat and was brought home by Brian Iguel. Peter Lieto took it upon himself to reach home as he took advantage of passed balls by the Bears' catcher.

The Bears were only able to put something on the board in the sixth inning, but were still way behind the Falcons, 4-6. The Falcons' lead only lengthened after a three run last inning which was enough to snatch the W away from the Bears as they could not get past a dominant Falcons pitching performance.

In last Wednesday's game, the Brewer's slipped past the Braves, 5-3.

Taipei's Wei Chun Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan and won in a grueling three-set match, 20-22, 21-18, 21-14.

It was the first time a country other than Chinese-Taipei, Japan, and South Korea made it to the finals of both qualifiers, so Smith and Lee made sure they grabbed the championship—but not without a huge undertaking against Chinese-Taipei.

## Ageless Nick Sablan tops May Ace

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Nick Sablan won the Saipan Golfers Association May Ace of the Month Tournament last May 21 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

The 71-year-old former CNMI national golfer humbled the field with a net 69 after shooting twin 38s for a gross of 76, which minus his 7 excellent handicap, gave him the score to beat in the tourney.

Ray Salas was a far second with his net 76 built around a gross score of 95 (45-50), while Mariano Fajardo completed the Top 3 with his net 77 after going 50-50 for a gross score of 100.

Sablan said he just enjoyed the greens and fairways in the May tournament and winning it all was gravy.

"It was just a fun day! You know there are times when



Sablan

you find that niche and everything's going your way. Plus it was a perfect day for golf. Dedicating this to all my friends!" he said.

In the closest to the pin competition, Sablan ruled holes No. 3, No. 13, and No. 17 to continue his ride on the gravy train, while Attor-

ney General Edward Manibusan was without peer in hole No. 13.

Sablan continued his hot streak by winning both longest drives in holes No. 2 and 12.

Sablan now joins SGA's 2023 Ace of Aces early qualifiers Ray Salas (January), Das Krishnan (February), Joe I. Sablan (March), and Rick Kautz (April).

### ANNE

From Page 20

this tournament is to win my age group."

The 2023 Australian Teams Championships will include training sessions prior to the slew of tournaments and aside from the younger Lee, other up-and-coming junior netters from Pacific Oceania have been invited to the 10-day competition, which started today, June 19, until June 28.

Anne is expected to duke it out against fellow 13-and-other players from Papua New Guinea and Fiji in her division. After the 2023 Australia

Teams Championships, she will take the short plane ride to Fiji and stay there for a few days until she is joined by the CNMI junior national team competing as part of the North Pacific Team in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka.

Anne said prior to leaving for the Land Down Under, she was intensely training with her coach, Dong Min Lee, who is also her father.

"I have been training hard with my dad. I have been very active every day on the courts consistently and I have been practicing a lot with my sister, Carol, and my brother, Sean."

### ISAIAH

From Page 20

"Swimming with Isaiah is awesome because we get to push each other during practice and cheer each other on. Moreover, Isaiah and I are friends both in and out the pool, so training with him is like hanging out with him."

He also added that he doesn't actually view Alek-

senko as a rival in the pool.

"I never really compete with anyone other than myself. Swimming is an individual sport, and the only thing I have been focusing on is getting a little faster every day. Yes, there are times where I look at other swimmers, including Isaiah, to remind myself that I can't slack off, but the ultimate competition I have is myself—always has been and always will be."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isaiah Aleksenko, second from right, and Jakey Deleon Guerrero, right, while competing in the 8-and-under division of the 2014 Guam Short Course Championships.





Arraez goes 5 for 5 to lift batting average to .400 as Marlins blank Blue Jays.

PAGE 17

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Cardinals, Falcons lead SBL standings.

PAGE 19



20 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Chinese-Taipei pair repeats as women's doubles champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
No. 1 seeds Hsu Ya Ching, right, and Lin Wan Ching of Chinese-Taipei repeated as the women's doubles champions of the last badminton qualifier, the TakeCare Saipan International 2023, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday afternoon.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

No. 1 seeds Hsu Ya Ching and Lin Wan Ching of Chinese-Taipei's repeated as women's doubles champions after the finale of the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday afternoon.

They held onto their doubles supremacy after they defeated Japan's Sayaka Hobara and Yui Suizu in two exciting sets.

Both Hsu and Lin were also the women's doubles champions in the first badminton qualifier, the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023, last June 11 after they defeated No.

4 seed Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan of South Korea.

Hsu and Lin showed everyone why they were the No. 1 seeds and why they won the last qualifier's finals, as they displayed great coordination and teamwork in their returns and defense.

Hobara and Suizu had a

difficult time penetrating Hsu and Lin's impenetrable defense as they themselves caused errors in their volleys. Hsu and Lin had the upper hand throughout much of the first set and crushed Hobara and Suizu easily, 21-10.

The second set was not as easy this time around as Hobara and Suizu recuperated and changed their approach. The game went back and forth and both teams had great saves and also missed opportunities, but the set only lengthened when Hobara and Suizu put up a good fight.

Hsu and Lin tried to hold off Hobara and Suizu with their swift attacks and speedy footwork, but Hobara and Suizu countered it with their anticipation and well placed returns

See CHINESE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The USA's Presley Smith, right, and mixed doubles partner Allison Lee won the mixed doubles championship in the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Sunday

## Anne Lee competing in Australia

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ITF  
International Tennis Federation

Anne Lee is following in the footsteps of her sister, All-American Carol, by playing this week in the 2023 Australian Teams Championships in Gold Coast, Australia.

She was invited through the International Tennis Federation's Grand Slam Player Development Programme in collaboration with the Oceania Tennis Federation.

The 12-year-old student from Saipan International School will compete in the 13-and-under division.



Lee

"I feel honored to be invited as the only NMI junior player and be able to play the Australian Teams Championships. I am thankful for the opportunity that was given by the GSPDP/ITF/OTF. I am excited to experience and explore and meet new players and coaches," said Anne.

As for her goals in the 2023 Australian Tennis Championships, the girls singles 18 champion of the 2023 NMI Crowne Plaza Junior Tennis Championships didn't hold back, "My expectations for

See ANNE on Page 19

## Isaiah, Jakey reunite in Fukuoka

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Isaiah Aleksenko will be teaming up with a familiar face in the 20th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan—former teammate Jakey Deleon Guerrero.

National coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Aleksenko and Deleon Guerrero started swimming at almost the same age and the same time under his tutelage at Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan.

"I found out those young boys' talent early on, so I trained them to be the two main wheels of the CNMI future. Their first off-island competition was Guam Short Course Championships in 2014. They won a lot of medals and trophies."

Since Aleksenko and Deleon Guerrero's birthdays are a mere six months apart, it was inevitable that they competed against each other in local and even off-island meets.

"They have participated in the Tokyo Junior Sprint as teammates several times and also participated in a swim camp in Japan. They participated in the Guam Championships every year, and competed with many Guam swim clubs in relay events as teammates."

Due to various circumstances, Aleksenko and Deleon Guerrero soon found themselves swimming for different clubs—the former stayed at Tsunami Saipan and the latter moved to Saipan Swim Club.

Kimura couldn't hide his excitement that the two dynamic swimmers will be swimming together in the 20th FINA World Championships.

"After six years, the reunion is realized under coach Hiro again! Moreover, it will be a meet in Japan that all three of us have been to many times. However, our competition this time has gone from junior competition to the world's top class competition, the World Championships. I never thought the day would come when I

could take Isaiah and Jakey to another meet in Japan. I will do my best coaching to bring out the best performance from the two. They were both 5 years old when we first met. Now, when I see the two of them grow up to be strong young men, I am overwhelmed with emotion!"

Aleksenko said it's cool that he and Deleon Guerrero are again now part of one team.

"It feels great. We can both talk together about swimming and how to improve ourselves. I'm just happy we can both compete and really show how hard we've been training," he said.

Deleon Guerrero, for his part, said he looks forward to swimming with Aleksenko once again.

See ISAIAH on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isaiah Aleksenko, left, and Jakey Deleon Guerrero during a recent practice at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool.